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OBSERVATIONS
CONCERNING
THE PREVENTION AND CURE
OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

OBSERVATIONS

CONTAINING

THE PREVENTION AND CURE

OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
EFFECTS OF VARIOUS ARTICLES
OF THE
Materia Medica,
IN THE CURE OF
LUES VENEREA:
ILLUSTRATED WITH
CASES.

BY
JOHN PEARSON,
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READER ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY.

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TO

THOMAS FOWLER, M. D.

*Late Physician of the General Infirmary of the
County of Stafford.*

MY DEAR SIR,

THE success with which you have investigated the properties and effects of several articles of the Materia Medica, has conferred on you a solid reputation among your contemporaries, and renders this expression of respect to your talents peculiarly proper, from one who has been engaged in similar inquiries. But, while I cherish a high estimation of your public character, it affords me a peculiar satisfaction to address you as a friend; assuring you, that I feel the highest gratification in tracing back the various events of many succeeding years, by
which

DEDICATION.

which our friendship has been more closely cemented, till it has acquired a vigour, which I trust will suffer no abatement, and a maturity which will never know a symptom of decay.

That enlarged Philanthropy by which your professional exertions have been actuated, during the long course of an useful life, will, I am sure, feel less gratified by the most laboured panegyric on your various acquirements, than by a tribute paid to your social virtues and your moral character.

I am, Dear Sir,

With great respect and regard,

Your faithful and affectionate friend,
and obedient servant,

JOHN PEARSON.

Golden-Square,

May 1, 1800.

INTRODUCTION.

1. **T**HE various and discordant opinions which have been adopted and disseminated by different medical writers, concerning the efficacy of several articles of the materia medica, in the venereal disease, have proved the occasion of much confusion in reasoning, and of no less instability in practice. It were desirable therefore, to attain to some degree of precision, in estimating the qualities of the mineral or vegetable productions which have been recommended for the cure of that complaint; to ascertain whether any other substance than Mercury be a true and certain antidote; and to what ends and purposes any of the numerous medicines recommended

may be employed, either in conjunction with Mercury, or after the completion of a mercurial course.

My principal design, in publishing the following work, is to communicate the result of my observations on these subjects, with a view of contributing my aid towards dispelling those uncertainties in which some important practical topics have been so long involved. But, previously to my entering upon the subject, I shall offer some introductory remarks, and display the nature of that evidence upon which many revolutions, in the mode of treating Lues Venerea, have been either attempted or actually brought about.

2. Towards the conclusion of the fifteenth century, this new and contagious disease invaded Europe, and spread with uncommon rapidity through its different kingdoms; the symptoms which characterized it were formidable and loathsome; and its obstinate and
untractable

untractable nature, resisted the most consummate medical skill of that period. The astonishment and perplexity excited by the ravages of this hitherto unknown plague, cannot be ascribed, solely, to the novel or uncommon form in which the complaint shewed itself; since there is scarcely an appearance produced by Lues Venerea, which is peculiar and appropriate to that malady, and which has not occurred as a character of some other disease. The mode in which it was most commonly communicated, the unrelenting fury with which it proceeded from one order of painful and disgusting symptoms to another, and, above all, the inefficacy of the several methods of treatment which were adopted by the physicians and surgeons of that period, furnished reasons but too cogent, both to the patient and his medical attendant, for regarding it as one of the most destructive scourges that had ever visited the human race.

3. Within a very short space of time after the first appearance of this malady, it was discovered that Mercury was capable of subduing its malignity, and of curing the effects produced by the virus ; a discovery which, during a short time, restrained the progress of the disease, and allayed the apprehensions of the afflicted.

The physicians and surgeons of that time, were indeed very imperfectly acquainted with the history and peculiar character of Lues Venerea ; and their knowledge of the powers and properties of the remedy they had acquired, was too vague and indefinite to conduct them to a safe and successful method of practice. They were accustomed to administer the specific in immoderate doses, and repeated them at too short intervals ; hence, by suddenly exciting a violent salivation, they sometimes destroyed the unfortunate patient ; and when that did not happen, they very frequently inflicted calamities on him, not inferior

INTRODUCTION.

rior to what might have been produced by the disease they were attempting to cure.*

The medical practitioners of those times did not possess a correct knowledge of the quantity of Mercury necessary to effect a radical cure; they had no distinct notion of

* Tandem eo incommodi res veniebat, ut dentium usus adimeretur, ipsis vacillantibus, Os alioqui totum uno occupante ulcere, cibi appetentiam, frige facto stomacho, & turbante foetore, amitterent ægri. Cumque fitis esset intolerabilis, tamen, quod ad stomachum faceret, potionis genus nullum inveniebatur. Multis ad vertiginem, quibusdam ad insaniam usque infestabatur cerebrum. Tremebant inde non manus tantum, sed pedes etiam, et universum corpus ac lingua balbutiem trahebat, nonnullis immedicabilem. Multos in media curatione interire vidi, et quendam novi sic medentem, qui tres una die viros agricolas, cum intra hypocaustum plus æquo æstuans conclusisset, ac illi salutis, quam sic adepturos se sperabant, studio patientius quam par erat consistrent, donec defectis per caloris vehementiam cordibus, mori non sentirent, misere jugulavit. Alios vidi intumescere ad fauces gutture, quum exitum non haberet sanies primum, quam in sputo dejici oportuit, deinde ipse etiam spiritus suffocari, quosdam cum mejere non possent, mori. Omnino pauci convaluerunt, atque illi hoc periculo, hac amaritudine, his malis.

Ulrichus de Hutten, de Morbo Gallico. Cap. IV.

the length of time during which its medicinal action ought to be supported in the animal system ; nor were they always competent to distinguish between the proper effects of the venereal poison, and the pernicious consequences of an injudicious practice.

The ill success which, in a great variety of instances, attended the exertions of the early practitioners, and the deplorable condition to which great numbers of their miserable patients were reduced, by the mal-administration of this active mineral, soon brought their mode of treatment into disrepute, and excited inquiries after other remedies, less uncertain in their specific qualities, and less injurious to the health and comfort of the diseased, in their consequences.

As the persuasion that the Lues Venerea was originally imported from Hispaniola, in the ship which brought back Columbus and his companions, was generally adopted, and as it was also a current opinion, that this
malady

malady was endemial in the West-India Islands,* it was presumed, that the country whence it was derived, could probably furnish a safe and efficacious remedy.

4. The *Lignum Sanctum*, or *Guaiacum* Wood, was brought into Europe early in the sixteenth century, and the Decoction of it was declared to be an infallible remedy against every form of *Lues Venerea*: nor were its advocates satisfied with placing it on an equality with Mercury; they averred, that this vegetable was capable of eradicating the disease, where successive courses of Mercury had totally failed of success.

This new medicine was however often found to be inefficient in the cure of *Lues Venerea*; and the failures which occurred,

* Although this account of the origin of *Lues Venerea* is commonly received as authentic, yet I have, during many years, been accustomed to controvert the opinion, in my lectures on that subject; the substance of which I design hereafter to offer to the public, in a Treatise on the *Lues Venerea*.

were sometimes ascribed to the introduction of a spurious kind of Guaiacum Wood ; at other times, to a diminution of its medicinal qualities, by keeping it too long. These opinions excited many respectable men to enter into minute and detailed descriptions of the genuine Wood, the state in which it ought to be used, and the proper mode of extracting its virtues ; and not a few engaged in sharp controversies on topics relating to it, the greater part of which, we now consider as frivolous, or absurd.* It was however generally admitted, that the Wood of the young trees, when employed in a recent state, had the best claim to confidence ; hence, many diseased persons were induced to migrate to the West Indies, for the express purpose of drinking decoctions made of the fresh plant,

* Aphrodisiacus, pssiam.

Astruc on the Venereal Disease.

Demetrius Caneuarius, de Ligno Sancto, Comment,

and

and of enjoying the other advantages of what was called the *Indian mode* of treatment.

The following curious narrative, will exhibit the nature of that discipline, which was practised among the rude natives of Saint Domingo.

C'est souvent par la mauvaise maniere d'administrer les remedes, qu'on est privé de leurs meilleurs effets. L'observation suivante sur l'usage du gayac est des plus intéressantes. Sa source n'est pas suspecte ; c'est le récit naïf de deux cures, rapportées par un témoin, sans prévention, qui n'étoit pas homme de l'Art, & qui prétendoit, ou qu'on n'apportoît pas en France le vrai gayac ; ou qu'on ignoroit la méthode de s'en servir. Voici le fait tel qu'on le lit dans les diverses leçons de Loys Guyon, Dolois, Sieur de la Nauche, Conseiller du Roi en ses Finances au Limosin. Lyon; 1625. Livre IV. Chap. V. Page 610.

“ Moi

“ Moi étant à Paris, l’an 1563, j’avois
“ grande familiarité avec deux jeunes Adole-
“ scences, enfans de ladite Ville, tous deux
“ de bonnes & illustres maisons, desquels je
“ tairai les noms, qui se trouverent infectés
“ de cette contagion vénérienne, parce que
“ le plus souvent elle se prend par paillardise,
“ acte déshonnête, & par conséquent honteuse,
“ laquelle ils celerent tant de temps qu’ils
“ purent.

“ Enfin la maladie se fit connoître par la
“ pèlade, par pustules rouges qui leur vinrent
“ au front, douleurs au milieu des os, tant
“ des bras, jambes, cuisses, epaules, que sur
“ le devant de la tête, les nuits jusqu’à
“ environ l’aube du jour, & autres signes,
“ comme la douleur au gosier, ne pouvant
“ bien avaler la viande. Les parens les
“ mirent entre les mains de Médecins & de
“ Chirurgiens bien expérimentés, qui y firent
“ tout ce que l’Art permettoit : mais ils ne
“ guérèrent pourtant. Pour la seconde fois,
“ furent

“ furent appellés d’autres Médecins à cette
“ cure, qui y appliquèrent tout leur sçavoir,
“ mais en vain : & au contraire cette maladie
“ s’empiroit, & se faisoit des tophes & nodo-
“ filés à la partie antérieure de leur tête,
“ & aux os des bras, cuisses & jambes,
“ avec douleurs nocturnes insupportables : &
“ comme la nuit s’approchoit, & durant icelle,
“ crioient & se plaignoient incessamment, tant
“ que les voisins les entendoient se lamenter
“ de tous côtés, à cause de quoi, leurs corps
“ devinrent secs ; ces deux jeunes hommes
“ étoient de complexion différent, & avoient
“ néanmoins les mêmes symptomes, ce que
“ les Médecins jugeoient être fort extraor-
“ dinaire.

“ Enfin, ces adolescens après avoir beaucoup
“ souffert de maux de peines & d’angoisses,
“ tant par les Médecins & Chirurgiens, que
“ par empyriques qui les avoient gouvernés,
“ que du propre mal ; après avoir fait beau-
“ coup de dépenses, & ennuyé leurs parens,
“ furent

“ furent laissées comme incurables, & en état
“ de ne pouvoir jamais plus vivre sainement,
“ & eussent fort désiré que la mort les eût
“ faisis. Les choses étant en tels termes,
“ Dieu eut compassion d’eux & de leur
“ parens. Le Sieur de Chantonmay, gentil-
“ homme Bourguignon, de la Franche-Comté,
“ fut envoyé par le Roi d’Espagne en
“ Ambassade par devers Charles IX. Roi de
“ France, qui lors se tenoit ordinairement à
“ Paris ; ledit Ambassadeur, qui fut informé
“ du cas de ces jeunes gens, dit qu’il
“ avoit vû en Bourgogne, en Allemagne, en
“ Flandre, en Italie, & en Espagne, plusieurs
“ vérolés qui avoient été traités inefficacement,
“ & qui avoient été chercher leur guérison
“ radicale en Amérique, & allegua spécialement l’exemple d’un sien Secrétaire.

“ D’après cet avis, ils allèrent s’embarquer
“ en Espagne, pour passer à l’Isle de Saint
“ Domingue.

“ Là

“ Là les Médecins du Viceroy furent d’avis
“ qu’ils passassent en une autre île qu’on
“ appelle S. Jean au Port Riche, où les
“ femmes sont fort entendues à guérir cette
“ Maladie. Voici le traitement qu’on leur
“ fit dans une cabanne de sauvage, sous la
“ direction d’une femme du pays.

“ Elle cassoit & fendoit avec ses dents de
“ petits tronçons de jeune arbre de gayac, &
“ les faisoit bouiller dans un vaisseau de terre
“ sans couverture. Elle leur faisoit boire tous
“ les matins une chopine de cette décoction,
“ en deux ou trois fois ; puis les faisoit pro-
“ mener, exercer à l’escrime, ou bien alloient
“ travailler à une mine d’or, qui n’était guères
“ loin du village, l’espace de deux heures :
“ puis venoient, étant pleins de sueur, à la
“ maison, & changeoient seulement de che-
“ mise ; puis les faisoit diner, ne buvant que
“ de l’eau de pluie puisée dans une marre.

“ Sur les trois heures après midi, on leur
“ faisoit boire autant de gayac, comme au
“ matin ;

“ matin, & faire le meme exercice ; & sans
“ autre cérémonie ni remede, se trouverent
“ entièrement guéris dans six semaines ; sans
“ autre inconvénient, que d’avoir les gencives
“ enflées & enflammées ; ce dont ils guéri-
“ rent incontinent, après qu’on les eut fait
“ saigner, en les piquant en plusieurs endroits
“ avec un os de poisson fort pointu. Les
“ nodosités qu’ils avoient aux os disparurent ;
“ toutes les douleurs nocturnes cessèrent dans
“ quinze jours ; l’appétit leur revint ; enfin
“ tous les accidens se dissipèrent ; ils retour-
“ nerent sains en Espagne, puis á Paris.
“ L’un, fils de Maitre des Comptes, est devenu
“ Officier aux Finances ; l’autre a rendu de
“ grandes services au Roi ès dernieres guerres
“ de l’Union, dans la profession des armes.
“ Il faut que l’arbre soit jeune & tendre : on
“ ne nous en apporte que du vieil.” Louis,
Parallele des Traitemens, &c. Chap. II.

5. The experience of a few years, taught
the medical practitioners of the sixteenth
century,

century, that the *Lignum Guaiaci* was not an infallible antidote against *Lues Venerea* ; and the frequent proofs which occurred of its insufficiency, led them to inquire after other vegetable remedies. Accordingly, about the middle of the same century, first the China Root, and then the *Sarsaparilla* Root, were brought into Europe, with the most positive and respectable attestations of their superior efficacy in venereal complaints.

The *Guaiacum* Wood, however, was not absolutely superseded by the arrival of these competitors ; for the three vegetable specifics, as they were termed, were administered, sometimes separately, and often in conjunction, to great multitudes of infected persons ; and, as the writers of that period assure us, with the most distinguished advantage. But, although this method of treating the disease, prevailed during many years ; yet the use of Mercury was not absolutely laid aside, even by those who were the strongest advocates

cates for these new medicines; and many eminent men, who flourished at that time, were so far from concurring in the general opinion, respecting Guaiacum Wood, China Root, and Sarsaparilla Root, that they regarded them as uncertain, or even nugatory, in venereal cases; and they insisted on the propriety of confiding in Mercury alone, for the radical cure of Syphilis.*

6. Amidst the several discordant opinions which have been maintained and defended, concerning the most successful mode of treating Lues Venerea, the fortunes of Mercury have been various and fluctuating. With a certain proportion of medical practitioners, it maintained a steady and undiminished reputation: by many, it was disparaged and undervalued, as a mineral possessed of no decided efficacy; and, by some the administration of it was exploded altogether. Even in the time

* Brassavolus, Bayrus, Rondeletius, &c.

of Morgagni,* this medicine was interdicted by some of the most eminent physicians in Italy; and strong prejudices against the use of it subsisted, according to the testimony of Murray, so late as the middle of the present century.†

How far reason, or fashion, or caprice, was predominant in conducting to such a determination, I presume not to decide: certain it is,

* Memini, cum ego adolescentulus Bononiam petii, usque adeo jam desertum utrumque Mercurii usum, ut annis octo quos ibi medicinæ studio tribui, ne unum quidem audiverim medicum, nedum viderim, alterutra rationem utentem;—Quibus igitur præstantissimos illos medicos vidisti, inquis, remediis utentes contra veneream Luem? Nimirum decoctis sive pervulgata, idque ut plurimum ratione datis, sive alia quam Valsalvæ, nec raro, in usu fuisse, vidi.

Morgagni de sed & Causis Morb. Lib. IV. Ep. 58.

† Adhucdum Florentiæ in Nosocomio incurabilium ad solum Guaiaci lignum & Sarsaparillæ radicem, tanquam ad sacram anchoram medici confugiant, & in Nosocomiis Hetruriæ plurimis lege usus Mercurii sit interdictus.

Appar. Med. Tom. III.

that notwithstanding the puny clamours of ignorance, the crafty discourse of interested empiricism, and even the imperious voice of authority, Mercury continues to this day the medicine commonly employed, and alone relied on, in all truly venereal cases. And, although there are many who pretend to exclude it from their nostrums, yet their perfidious declarations are occasionally betrayed by the salivating qualities of that mineral, which, in defiance of every disguise and combination, will sometimes appear, to the detection of the impostor.*

7. In asserting the preference due to Mercury, as an antivenereal remedy, before all

* Mr. Bromfeild, speaking of these nostrum-mongers, observes, that "many of them are happily furnished with a never failing diet drink, that cures the Evil, Leprosy, Lues, &c. and declare they never give a grain of Mercury; yet we find by the state of the patient's mouth, or bowels, that *by accident a little of the Corrosive Sublimate had slipped in, unknown to the preparer.*"

Bromfeild on the Night-Shade, &c. P. 79.

others

others yet introduced into practice, I neither intend to deny, nor to conceal, that real inconveniencies are sometimes connected with the administration of that medicine. There are certain peculiarities of constitution, where its irritating qualities predominate over its medical ones, and where the mode of its agency seems rather calculated to distress the patient, and to injure the health, than to remove the disease for which it is exhibited: hence, it were highly desirable to acquire a medicine equally potent as an antivenereal, and not possessing certain active properties peculiar to that mineral. But this concession forms no valid objection against Mercury exclusively.

There are other articles of the materia medica, which produce ill effects on the animal system, even when administered with the utmost skill and judgment. It is sufficiently known, that Antimony, Ipecacuanha, Peruvian Bark, Opium, Digitalis, Rhubarb, Magnesia,

ness, Honey, &c. when brought into conflict with certain idiosyncrasies, will excite great and serious mischief; the primary and direct effect of these medicines, on one or more parts of the animal system, militating absolutely against their medicinal qualities. But, exceptions of this kind make no impressions upon the minds of considerate men, unfavourable to the generally acknowledged merits of these drugs: they note the particular instances, and substitute other medicines in their stead, which possess qualities corresponding to the indication.

The wish which I have expressed, that another medicine could be found, on which reliance could be placed, for the cure of Lues Venerea, does in no wise spring from any distrust of the sufficiency of Mercury; it originates merely from the same source which would induce me to desire, that the means of remedying every form of human misery, were abundantly multiplied.

I regard

I regard every effort used to increase the store of useful medicines, as highly meritorious; and, notwithstanding my firm persuasion of the safety, efficacy, and pre-eminency of Mercury, in all cases truly venereal, yet I should be guilty of a very perverse and contracted mode of thinking, were I to oppose the introduction of another specific, or censure the experiments made to ascertain its intrinsic merits. Scarcely any new medicine has been proposed during the last twenty years, of which I have not made some trial; and, so far am I from being discouraged by ill success, that I am at this time employed in making experiments with two preparations, as unpromising *a priori*, in my opinion, as any that have been ever made the subject of inquiry.*

* These are, an oxide of Copper, and an oxide of Iron. When I have ascertained their merits, and the most eligible methods of preparing them, I design to communicate the result of my observations to the public.

There is, however, I conceive, a point beyond which experiments ought not to be urged; there are cases where no hazard ought to be incurred, by following dubious methods of treatment, when a certain and efficient mode of practice is already well established: much less is it warrantable, from the real or supposed discovery of a new medicine, to attempt to explode, or even to depreciate the use of a remedy which has been sanctioned by the concurrent experience of three centuries.

What number of specific medicines may yet lie concealed among the arcana of nature, can form no proper subject of conjecture; but, that Mercury is as indubitable a specific against Lues Venerea, as any one article of the materia medica is against any one malady, is a fact too authentic to be disputed by any who have either employment or reputation to lose; and, as for those who possess neither, their suffrages are not worth collecting.

When

When inquiries like those which constitute the substance of the following work, are submitted to the public, it is usual for the authors of them to appeal to actual experiments, and to vouch for the truth of their observations. To those who have never duly considered the obstacles that impede, and the difficulties which perplex, almost every attempt at investigations of this kind, it must appear extraordinary, that any person should fail of gaining a correct knowledge of the powers and properties of medicinal substances. Yet, that men do perpetually miscarry in their researches, is a fact too notorious to be controverted; and the disagreeing reports which are ushered successively into the world; the disparagement of medicines once high in celebrity, and the restoration of others to credit, which had been expunged, or were become obsolete; might almost tempt one to suspect, that experiments often prove an occasion of multiplying the avenues to error, rather than of con-

ducting to the acquisition of truth. Let any person trace the vicissitudes of fortune which have attended any one powerful instrument of medicine, in different countries, and at distinct periods of time, and he will quickly discover how little credit is due to many a well-told tale; he will probably be humbled and abashed, on detecting the simple credulity, the frivolous levity, or even the party spirit, which have in their turns usurped the place of a fair unbiased judgment, and imposed their spurious offspring, in the room of a sober and legitimate induction.*

A detailed

* Dr. Gregory, the present professor of medicine in the University of Edinburgh, has delivered his sentiments on this subject with a manly freedom, in the Introduction to his Philosophical and Literary Essays. P. 94, &c.

“This kind of dissingenuity has very seldom been practised in any branch of physics, except in medicine; in which indeed it has long been abundantly common, and consequently is well understood. It seems now to be pretty generally considered as one of those peccadillos, which, like barbarous Latin, are *Medicis condonanda*; and is perhaps thought justifiable, on the long established medical

A detailed history of the several modes of treating Lues Venerea which have been proposed

medical axiom, *Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur*. And, at any rate, great allowances are to be made for those who must live by the follies, and fears, and vices of mankind. But I much fear that some of my professional brethren have abused their privilege in this respect, to such a degree as to make it almost useless. The most candid, and patient, and experienced physicians, who are surely the best and only competent judges of such a question, have been obliged to confess, that great numbers of our Medical Facts and Observations are as little to be relied on as our medical theories; and less they cannot be. In a neighbouring country the same remark has been so generally made, and is so well confirmed, as to be expressed in the form of a proverb, *Grand observateur, grand menteur*; which my late venerable colleague and preceptor in medicine, Dr. Cullen, whose long and extensive experience had fully taught him the truth of it, used frequently to quote to his pupils, with great acrimony. I much fear the French proverb will soon be translated, and naturalized in this island; and that in a few years a book of Medical Observations will be of as little value or authority, as an equal number of medical advertisements and certificates, selected from the London newspapers."

"When either physicians or metaphysicians were disposed to act disingenuously in the account which they gave

posed at different periods of time, would furnish an ample illustration of these remarks; since almost every kind of vegetable and mineral production, even the Bark of Sassafras and the Balsam of Sulphur,* two of the most inert substances in nature, have been celebrated as antidotes, and have obtained attested records in their favour. Indeed some learned and respectable writers have proceeded so far as to aver, that the venereal disease may be cured without the aid of medicine; and they pretend to prove, that certain changes of the climate, various modes of exercise, parti-

gave of their own observations, they would be encouraged to do so by the evident difficulty, or in many cases the seeming impossibility, of detecting any falsity in the account which they gave of their own thoughts and their own observations."

"Metaphysicians could scarce have any other motive but mere vanity for acting in such a manner: Physicians would have that and more, for not only empty praise, but much solid pudding, may be earned by assuming the character of a great discoverer, and observer, and improver in medicine."

* Rulandi Observ. Medicinal.

cular forms of diet, the supervention of some acute diseases, and even the powers of restitution naturally inherent in the animal system have each of them been equal to the eliminating of this virus, and restoring the infected person to a state of soundness. I shall state some of the evidence which they adduce, in confirmation of these singular propositions, and offer my observations upon it.

8. The physicians and surgeons who flourished at an early period after the first appearance of Lues Venerea, had constant opportunities of observing, that their patients acquired very decided advantages from a copious and long continued perspiration. All the arrangements which they annexed to the administration of the Decoction of Guaiacum, were calculated to promote that effect; and they likewise employed Fumigations with Spirit of Wine, the Hot Bath, the Vapour Bath, Sweating Chairs, and violent Exercise, with a similar intention.

It

It appears probable, that these several modes of attaining one and the same end, were adopted with the design of increasing the momentum of the blood, of liquefying the virus, and of exciting a depuratory fever, by which the morbid matter should be discharged by the skin: for, as medicine was chiefly Galenical, its professors very consistently expected more beneficial effects from a regular systematic course of evacuation, than from the more obscure agency of specific remedies.*

* Ambrose Paré taught that Guaiacum could not cure the venereal disease, and gave a decided preference to mercurial frictions, above any other mode of treating it; yet, he regarded Mercury as bringing on a crisis, and effecting a cure, by the evacuations which it promoted, rather than by any other quality.

Par art & ayde des medicamens, se procure une crise, par le moyen de laquelle, nature aydée, & dominatrice, expelle & chasse le venin par les evacuations susdites; de sorte qu'estant la crise parfaite, il s'ensuit vraye & entière curation.

Les Oeuvres D'Ambroise Paré. P. 451.

That

That certain advantages may be obtained by a sudorific plan of treatment, is an opinion which has been so long prevalent, and is so widely diffused, that it would argue a most unreasonable share of scepticism, to reject indiscriminately all that has been offered upon the subject. M. Louis, who was a cautious and enlightened observer, entertained a very favourable opinion of the efficacy of sudorifics; for he has asserted, that the methodic use of such medicines, would radically cure erratic pains, derived from a venereal infection;* this however, I conceive, ought only to be understood as implying, that when the venereal virus is subdued, sudorifics often prove beneficial in removing those symptoms for the cure of which the farther use of Mercury is not adapted. But, although the application of heat and moisture, and the administration of diaphoretic medicines, have been useful under the direction of prudent men, yet

* *Parallele des Traitemens, &c.* P. 60.

they

they have been too often grossly misapplied; and the general principle which actuated medical men to employ them, has been frequently urged to a most culpable excess; insomuch, that they have produced the last stage of weakness and extenuation.*

It may be farther observed, that a strong persuasion of the extraordinary efficacy of this mode of treatment, has given occasion to the most whimsical and ridiculous practices, of which the following narratives afford a curious illustration.

Scatebat quidem è grege mendicabulorum Lue Venereâ, aliquot diebus universum corpus fimo equino obruit, ut tantum esset, qua respiraret. Erat stercus stabulorum equino

* Debeo hoc corpus emaciare, & omnem pinguedinem expellere.—Potus esto aqua, vel serum lactis tenuissimum, nec alius, exercitatio corporis maxima, quotidiana, continuata cum taedio ad sudores usque, nam vis vitæ debet esse tanta, ut omne oleum consumat, nec permittat novum generari.

Herm. Boerhaave, Prælect. Academ.
de Luc Venerea. P. 342.

lotio

lotio sæpius perfusum, quodque jam computruerat. Effecit ille hâc arte, ut totum virum exprimeret: addidit aliquoties euporistum, ex axungiâ, larignâ, & hydrargyro. Nec alia vitæ lex servata est, quam mantica offerebat: atque his remediis curatus est.*

A treatment still more disgusting, was practised in Persia, according to the testimony of M. Sanchez. J'ai appris en Russie, des personnes dignes de foi, que les Persans se guérissent de la maladie vénérienne, de la manière suivante: le malade se met tout nud dans une Latrine, jusqu'à au col, avec une espèce de chapeau sur la tête, afin que la vapeur des matières échauffe la respiration & toute la tête. On lui fait prendre des liquides seulement pendant 21 jours, qu'il y reste. Il y dort, & au bout de ce tems, il sort parfaitement guéri, & son corps renouvelé.†

* Sylloges Memorab. Medicinæ. J. R. Camerarii.
Cent. IX. Hist. LXXV.

† Observ. sur les Malad. Vénériennes.

M. Peyrilhe, adduces this fact as an evidence in favour of the antivenereal powers of the Volatile Alkali;* but I am disposed rather to regard it as a very extraordinary mode of conducting the sudorific process, and this opinion derives confirmation from the following remarks of Kempe. *Optima ejectio; mea quidem sententia, est lenis sudor; experientia enim docet, multos aegrotos in calidis terris; usu sudoriferorum potuum sanatos esse. In Hungaria sunt montium cavernae, in quibus homines venerei aliquot dies delitescere solent, sudant ibi et levamen symptomatum suorum persentiscunt. In Polonia; singularem quandam a Lue Venerea sudando se liberandi methodum esse ferunt, scilicet aegroti quotidie aliquot horas in calidum equorum stercus se ingerunt; durante hac curatione tenuia et pauca cibaria sumunt, quam diætam quatuor septimanas continuant, et dicuntur aegroti a*

* Essai sur la vertu Anti-Venerienne des Alkalis Volatils. Chap. IV.

lue esse liberati. Postea etiam noctu in lectis vehementer sudare, mihi relatum est.*

I presume, few persons could be found in this country, who would submit to these offensive and ridiculous practices ; nor would any man of credit in his profession, hazard his own reputation, and his patients safety, by employing diaphoretics alone in the treatment of the venereal disease : yet it must be allowed, that the evidence in favour of the efficacy of that class of medicines, far exceeds that which accompanies any of the modern remedies proposed as substitutes for Mercury. I have, however, repeatedly tried the full effects of sudorific medicines, aided by hot baths, but without curing one patient by them ; and I have known, in several instances where the venereal disease has been mistaken for Rheumatism, that a course of hot sea bathing, and of the Bath waters, have been prescribed with-

* *Spicelegia quædam ad Curat. Luis Venereæ, &c.*
J. F. Kempe. P. 22.

out the least advantage. Indeed, in all the cases which have fallen under my notice, where the Bath waters have been used, the disease has been uniformly aggravated.

9. That the secondary symptoms of Lues Venerea do not proceed with equal rapidity to the destruction of health, or life, in hot climates, as in cold ones, is I conceive generally allowed, by those who have enjoyed favourable opportunities of making a comparison. The disease is likewise usually attended with fewer inconveniencies in Spain, Portugal, Italy, and the southern parts of France, than it is in this kingdom; and, as far as I can rely upon the testimony of various persons with whom I have conversed on the subject, a smaller quantity of Mercury, and a shorter period of time, are sufficient for the curing of it. I have likewise had some opportunities of observing, that persons migrating from this country into a warmer region, with Lues Venerea in their constitution, have passed many

many months there, without suffering so much disturbance from the disease, as to induce them to seek for medical assistance: but, immediately after their return to England, the virus has proceeded in its ravages with renewed activity.

Within the last one hundred and fifty years, many of our nobility and gentry were accustomed to pass over to France, when afflicted with secondary symptoms, from a persuasion, that they could obtain a more expeditious and radical cure in that kingdom; and Sydenham, unwilling to admit that the physicians of that nation were possessed of superior skill in treating the disease, ascribes their pre-eminent success to the greater comparative purity of the French climate.*

That very salutary effects might be expected from a change of climate, was taught

* Hujusmodi ægris, œconomiâ illorum corporum everſâ ac viribus proſtratis, apud nos aër craſſus ac humidus reſarciendis minus idoneus eſt, cum iſte Gallix, utpotè qui ſalubrior ac magis ſerenus, ſpiritus corporis & vires deperditas inſtaurare aptus ſit, &c. Sydenham. Opuscul. P. 405.

early in the sixteenth century, by an author, who declares, that he was often an eye-witness of the cure of the disease from that circumstance alone, without the aid of any medicine. Si quis apud Barbaros eo morbo inficiatur, qui gallicus vulgò dici solet, raro aut nunquam pristinae redditur sanitati, quin mors tandem inde consequatur. Solet autem hic morbus quodam dolore ac tumore primum prorepere, ac tandem in ulcera verti. Paucis admodum toto Atlante, tota Numidia, totaque Libya, hoc notum est contagium. Quod si quisquam fuerit qui se eo infectum sentiat, mox in Numidiam, aut in Nigritarum regionem proficiscitur, cujus tanta est aeris temperies, ut optimæ sanitati restitutus inde in patriam redeat: quod quidem multis accidisse ipse meis vidi oculis, qui nullo adhibito neque Pharmaco neque Medico, præter saluberrimam jam dictum aerem, revaluerant.*

* Joannis Leonis Africani. de totius Africae descriptione. Lib. I. Fol. 33. Ant. 1556.

The influence of the air on venereal patients was an object of attention to Gabriel Fallopius: he seems indeed to have considered the agency of climate, as principally efficient in modifying the form or violence of the symptoms; yet he is positive that advantage, or detriment, is connected with the temperature of the atmosphere. *Ideo possum monere vos, ut si amicus inficitur Gallico, & fuerit in aëre frigidiori & tenuiori, moneatis, ut eat ad crassiores et calidiores, saluberrimum tamen.**

Vercellonus is still more explicit in expressing the beneficial influence of a warm climate, both in mitigating the symptoms, and retarding the progress of the disease.—*Patet proinde morbum hunc in calidis regionibus minus sævire, quam in frigidis, atque Indos iccirco, quibus idem endemius & vernaculus est, cum ipso ad extremum usque senium perdurare.†*

* De Morbo Gallico. Cap. XXXVIII. P. 703.

† De Lue Venerea. Cap. IV. P. 224.

From these and other testimonies which might be produced, if necessary, we may be authorised to believe, that the influence of a warm climate upon those infected with Lues Venerea, is not inconsiderable; that it may retard the progress of the disease; that it may render it milder in some of its symptoms; and also that it may contribute to increase the activity and certainty with which the proper remedies operate, and thus render the patient less in danger of suffering from some of the sequelæ, which often prove as troublesome as the original complaint. It cannot however be supposed, that upon so slender a foundation as these facts afford, any person should infer, that a migration near the equator, could supersede the necessity of using any other mode of treatment: a conclusion of this nature would be repugnant to the constant experience of mankind during three centuries.

I do not apprehend that, at this period of time, any person is in danger of being misled by such representations as are contained in the foregoing pages; they may serve, however, to evince how easily men impose upon themselves, in matters where even the bias of interest, or the eagerness of vanity, can scarcely be suspected of having offered an allurements: and where, indeed, we must often resolve the incorrectness of their information into an incontinency of discourse, or a strange indifference about the interests of truth.

10. That the venereal virus could be subdued, and its mischievous effects eradicated, by a coarse and simple diet, joined to laborious exercise, and a constant exposure to all the vicissitudes of the weather, without the aid of any medicine, was inculcated by the highest medical authority in the sixteenth century, and has been repeated by various writers of eminence down to the present time.

Vidi ego sæpè malum, qui jam sudoribus omne
 Finisset, sylvisque luem liquisset in altis.
 Sed nec turpe puta dextram summittere aratro,
 Et longum trahere incurvo sub vomere sulcum ;
 Neve bidente solum, & duras proscindere glebas,
 Et validâ aëriam quercum exturbare bipenni,
 Atque imis altam eruere ab radicibus ornum.
 Quinetiam, exercere domi quo te quoque possis,
 Parvam mane pilam versa mihi, vespere versa,
 Et saltu, et durâ potes exudare palæstrâ.
 Vince malum ; nec te fallat, quòd desidis otii
 Assiduè desiderium, lætisque sequetur.
 Tu læsto ne crede, gravi ne crede sopori—*

Vella, in his small treatise on the venereal disease, speaks nearly the same language.—
 Tertium problema est, propter quid est quod multi sanati sunt à tali ægritudine beneficio solius exercitii? He then offers such reasons as the theory of his own times suggested, and concludes thus:—& mihi videtur quod usque in hodiernum diem non sit inventa medicina sibi compar, & hac de causa rustici laborantes facile sanantur, quare Virgilianum illud non fuit vane dictum, 1 Georg. 145.

* Syphilis. Fracastorii. Lib. ii.

labor omnia vincit

Improbis, & duris urgens in rebus egestas.*

Gabriel Fallopius has written a short chapter on the advantages of exercise in venereal complaints; and, in a subsequent one, entitled *De Vero Antidoto*, he delivers the following narrative: *Ego vidi aliquos curatos ligno fagi, qui coniecti in triremes, atque instituta victus ratione tenuissima, laborantes, ex toto liberantur: sed iste non est usus medicus.*†

Francantianus is equally explicit with his predecessors, in favour of strong exercise:—*Alia vero est curandi ratio per continuata exercitia, & vehementiora, quae tum insensibiliter, tum etiam sensibiliter, per sudoris evacuare possint.*‡

Tomitanus assents to the truth of these representations, but disapproves of the practice, because it is attended with some hazard to the patient.

* Georgii Vellæ Opusculum. Cap. IV.

† *De Morbo Gallico*. Cap. XXXVII.

‡ *Ant. Francant. de Morbo Gallico Liber.*

But

But, not to multiply quotations from the older writers, I shall conclude with the following testimony from Prosper Borgiautius. Unde tanti etiam facio exercitium in omni morbo Gallico homine affecto, cum scilicet moderata aliqua mensura, ut multos hac tantum ratione liberos evasisse prospexerim: quemadmodum ex quamplurimis militiam exercentibus videre licet, qui quamquam facillime hanc pravam veneream luem percipiant, eam nihilominus exercitio quodam expellunt omnino, vel saltem ita humiliant, ut vix actiones eorum lædat.*

Among the modern writers who have contended for the utility of this mode of treatment, I shall first cite the opinion of Ramazzini:—Si tamen bonos, & ingenuos practicos consulamus, nullum profecto fore existimo, qui ultro non fateatur, felicius sanari hunc morbum in populari & rusticana gente, quam in divitibus & nobilibus viris. Sæpe-

* De Morbo Gallico Methodus. Cap. XI.

numero, præmissa purgatione simplici, Guaiaci decoctione lues illa abstergitur, & si quod reliquum est virulentiae, dum ad solita exercitia ablegantur, quando sola exercitatio, sed valida & continuata, primis illis temporibus, hujusce morbi, Fallopio teste, singulare erat remedium, facile excutitur.—Sic olim Dorias, celeberrimus ille classium ductor, remiges suos, quotiescumque gallico morbo laborarent, integri remi faginei decocto, & solita remigationis exercitatione sub dio; & in medio mari ad sanitatem deducebat.*

Vercellonus confirms the same notion:—Narrat Emanuel Aranda, uti miles sibi perspectus Algerii ex usu egregii hujusce medicamenti, (Vinum Meracius) & ex laboribus, quos in triremibus perduraverat, à tam truculento morbo incolumis evaserat.†

The learned Baron van Swieten seems to have entertained no doubt of the fidelity of such

* Opera Omnia. Tom. I. Orat. 3.

† De Lue Venerea. P. 257.

representations; he even supports them by adopting the same opinion. It is also remarkable, that the only reflection which he offers on the account given by Fallopius,* is the following: *Nisi enim dura cogat necessitas, vix inveniuntur aegri, qui calamitosam adeo vitam ducere velint, ut a foedo morbo liberentur.*—He then proceeds to give the following narrative, as an additional confirmation of the power of diet, exercise, and hardship, to cure the venereal disease. *Vidi ipse memorabilem casum, qui me docuit, quid constans aegri animus, cum victu penitus macilento, ac validorum laborum tolerantia, efficere possit in Lue Venerea inveterata, & vix non desperata. Nobilis juvenis petabat a me consilium, qui in calamitosissimo statu versabatur. Quater salivationem mercurialem subiverat; semper postea repullulante Lue Venerea, quae sanata credebatur. Ter tentata fuerat cura per decoctum Guaiaci; nec meliori successu. Gerebat in sterno, ac claviculis, tumores, in*
fronte

fronte similem unicum; cutis in variis locis maculis foeda erat; & dolores nocturnos ossium patiebatur. Omnium rerum inops cum esset, nemo illum recipere volebat, aut curam ejus gerere; universa familia detestabatur miserum. Fatebatur se non semel cogitasse, ut violenta morte miseriarum finem quaereret.

Moerentem animum erexi, lenimen malorum promittens, dum integram curam spondere non audebam in morbo adeo inveterato. Fidem dabat, se omnia tentare velle, & posse, etiam durissima, modo aliqua sanationis spes affulgeret. Cum satis robusta esset nativa corporis compages, & adesset aetatis vigor, rustica veste indutum hominem elocavi agricolae, ut, absque ulla duri laboris mercede, famulum ageret, solo victu contentus, & vili quidem. Praeter panem enim, alebatur dauci & pastinacae radicibus, solani esculenti tuberculis, pomis, pyris, hordeo, avena, in sola aqua coctis, & similibus. Potus erat lactis ebutyrati

ebutyrationem ferum acidulum, tenuissimum. Mensis Aprilis initio incepit hoc vitae genus, & dueros ruris labores constantissime tulit usque ad mensis Octobris initium, quando me accessit sanus. Toto hoc tempore, a carnibus, piscibus, ovis, lacte, butyro, caseo, abstinuit severissime. Vidi illum, post aliquot annos, in foecundo conjugio viventem. & formosa sanaque prole beatum.

Mirum certe exemplum, quod docet, Venerum contagium elui potuisse ex locis corporis, quibus pertinaciter haerebat, & expelli de corpore, per sudores, validis laboribus in calido aëre excitatos, dum simul diaeta macilentissima servabatur, et copiosus liquidi solventis potus sudori aptum vehiculum praebebat. Rari tamen sunt qui possent, rariores qui vellent, constanti animo hanc curandi methodum tolerare.*

* Comment. in Herm. Boerhaave Aphorismos. Tom. V.
§ 1478.

II. But, if credit may be given to men of eminence in the profession, this rigorous course of discipline is not indispensably necessary ; for, according to Thierry de Hery, Nic. de Blegny, Vercellonus, Peyrilhe, and others, the disease may terminate by a natural crisis, and is susceptible of a spontaneous cure. A decision so extraordinary as this, does not restrict the efficacy of nature to the curing of a Gonorrhœa, or the removal of the primary symptoms of Lues Venerea, but extends her sanative powers to the eradicating of every form of secondary symptoms.

I need not undertake at this day to prove, that the whole of this statement about the efficacy of regimen, and the doctrine of a natural crisis, has no foundation in truth and reality, and that it has originated in mistaking the sequelæ of Lues Venerea, and the effects of Mercury, in a bad habit of body, for genuine venereal symptoms ; nevertheless, in rejecting the above conclusions, we need by no means to
impeach

impeach the rectitude of intention of those who made them. They had observed, that ulcers often continued open on the penis, and that large, spreading, untractable sores remained in the groin, during many months after the patient had undergone a full and decisive course of Mercury ; and they had found, that ulcers of this description were commonly exasperated by the farther introduction of Mercury into the circulation. Hence they concluded, that these were venereal symptoms, which the mineral specific was unable to cure. And, when it was known, that a residence in the country, a plain diet, and rural exercises and occupations, were frequently beneficial to such patients, the advantages derived thence, were ascribed to the peculiar effects of the regimen on the venereal virus, and not to the change produced in the constitution.

The venereal virus, when introduced into the system, often gives rise to morbid appearances which do not in any proper sense
partake

partake of the nature of the remote cause; and even symptoms originally venereal may lose that character, by the proper use of Mercury, while, to the eye of a common observer, they seem not to have undergone any favourable alteration. These facts may be illustrated, by what occurs daily in the Small-pox, Measles, &c. where eruptions, tubercles, abscesses, phthifical symptoms, and other forms of disease, supervene on the disappearance of the former complaints; yet no medical practitioner ever regards the latter as having anything variolous or morbillous in their essential properties. No man finds any difficulty in distinguishing between the primary disease; and the sequelæ, in the instances now adduced; yet, in the venereal disease, the distinction has been too commonly overlooked; and to this want of discrimination may be traced many of those incorrect and marvellous narratives; which, while they detract from the reputation of the historian, reflect some disgrace on the

whole profession. But, as a more direct reply to the representations made upon this subject, I would urge, that if exposure to hardship in all the vicissitudes of temperature; if hard fare, excessive labour, and the complicated evils attendant on poverty, can certainly destroy the activity of the venereal poison, and remedy its effects, whence does it arise, that no description of people, in any climate, are exempted from the necessity of having recourse to medicine? The German peasant, the Russian boor, the temperate Hindoo, the inhabitants of the South Sea Islands, the wretched Africans enslaved in our West India Islands, will no doubt furnish us with abundant instances, where the requisites of exposure to the extremes of heat and cold, of scanty allowance, and excessive fatigue, may be all found, in their full measure; yet no proofs can be brought, that the powers of the constitution, aided by this sort of discipline, did ever effect the cure of the disease, without the intervention of medical assistance.

12. Information concerning the efficacy of any particular mode of treatment, ought never to be conveyed to the public in the form of general, unqualified and positive declarations, until confirmed by experiments made upon a large scale, and sanctioned by time and the concurring testimony of others. Where precautions of this nature are slighted and neglected, the records of medicine will be perverted from their principal design, and prove but too often the repositories of misconception and error.

I presume that no well-informed man gives credit to a single assertion that has been made, by the writers quoted in the foregoing pages, concerning the extraordinary agency of sudorifics, of change of climate, of regimen, or of natural crises, in curing the venereal disease; yet all these vague and unsatisfactory narratives and sentiments, have been copied, or referred to, by a number of succeeding authors, without any expressions of disapprobation annexed

nexed to them. It is greatly to be regretted, that men truly learned and deservedly eminent, have been so frequently seduced into a concurrence with opinions which they never fairly examined, and have given an avowed, or at least a tacit assent, to practices of the merit of which they were not competent to judge.

This unwary mode of proceeding is certainly reprehensible in all cases ; but especially where the health and lives of mankind are so nearly concerned ; and the laws of strict integrity require, that the history of diseases, and the effects of remedies, should be recorded with the same sacred regard to truth and correctness, with which all testimony ought to be delivered in a court of judicature.

No men are so prone to indulge in fanciful speculations, as those that are without practice ; for, having little occasion to bring their notions to the test of actual experience, they proceed boldly in forming splendid and attractive

tractive theories, without the least fear of those consequences, which would be apprehended by men of an established reputation, and long experience. A man should be endowed with a lively genius, a comprehensive mind, and a talent for discerning the relations of things, in all the various divisions of the scale, and of combining them into a regular, uniform, and coherent structure, in order to model hypotheses with tolerable success; whereas the licentious indulgence of a vigorous fancy, may prove extremely incommodious to a mere narrator of facts, whose office it is to communicate what he knows, with plainness and simplicity; where patience and sagacity in observing the order and method of nature, a clearness of conception, and, above all, an inflexible fidelity, are requisites without which the most shining qualities are of no value.

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CHAPTER I.

Of the LIGNUM GUAIACI.

THE Guaiacum Wood was first employed by the natives of Saint Domingo, as an antidote against the Lues Venerea; the Spaniards soon acquired a knowledge of its virtues, and introduced it into Spain as early as the year 1508. The fame of this new remedy was diffused with such celerity through the other parts of Europe, that, according to the testimony of Nicholas Poll, more than three thousand diseased persons had derived permanent benefit from the use of it, before the year 1517.*

* Aphrodisiacus Aloys. Luifini. Ed. Lugd. 1738.

Frampton's Joyful news from the new found world.

A decoction of this wood, made with water, and sometimes with wine,* was administered under every form, and during every period, of the disease; the physicians directing at the same time purgative medicines, at proper intervals; confinement to the house; vapour baths; and an appropriate course of diet, which was commonly dictated with a tedious exactness, bearing the signature of superstition, rather than that of medical science.† This process, continued during six weeks, and often for a longer time, with such occasional variations as new circumstances might suggest, was long regarded as the most safe and efficacious mode of treating patients afflicted with Syphilis.

The advantages which were connected with this method of cure, were so commonly believed and acknowledged, that during a considerable period of time, the exhibiting of mercury was not only discontinued, but the practice was publicly censured, as inefficacious and prejudicial. Many of the most eminent writers of the sixteenth century contended,

* Lud. Septalii. Animad. Lib. VII.

† Aphrodisiacus.

that Guaiacum was a true specific, having the power of correcting the qualities of the venereal poison, and of expelling it out of the system ; and this opinion was revived and ably supported in the eighteenth century, by a man whose capacity, learning, and medical science, added lustre to the country and period in which he flourished.*

Those favourable reports of the virtues of Guaiacum, which maintained their credit through more than two centuries, were not founded merely on the frail basis of partiality, or prepossession ; they were supported by well attested narratives of its good effects in great numbers of instances, where no mercury had been employed ; or where that medicine had done no permanent good ; or where the patients had suffered injury from it, instead of finding advantage. Yet, notwithstanding the numerous and respectable testimonies which were adduced in proof of the efficacy of this vegetable, its most strenuous advocates were obliged to confess, that Guaiacum was frequently administered in vain. The disappointments which medical practitioners often

* Boerhaave, in Prefat. ad Aphrodisiac.

experienced, when they had relied on Guaia-cum alone, as a specific remedy, introduced again the more frequent use of mercury; and, as this active medicine was soon employed with more caution and judgment than formerly, a very important and salutary change in the mode of treating lues venerea was consequently established. Nevertheless, so firmly were the generality of physicians persuaded of the antivenereal virtues of Guaia-cum, that the same men who contended for the necessity of a mercurial salivation, maintained that this vegetable was not a less real, though not quite so potent an antidote.*

When I was entrusted with the care and management of the Lock Hospital, in 1781, I observed, that Mr. Bromfield and Mr. Williams had been long accustomed to repose great confidence in the medicinal powers of a decoction of the Guaiacum wood; and that a method somewhat similar to that proposed by Ulric Hutten, and strongly recommended by Boerhaave, had been adopted in the hos-

* Brassavolus, Fallopius, &c.

pital during many years.* The patients for whom the Guaiacum was directed, were those who had previously used the usual quantity of mercury; but who complained of nocturnal pains; who had gummata, nodes, ozaena, and such other effects of the venereal virus, connected with secondary symptoms, as did not yield to a course of mercurial frictions. The diet of these patients consisted of raisins and hard biscuit; they drank from two to four pints of the decoction of Guaiacum every day; they were ordered to use the hot bath twice in the week; and they commonly took a dose of antimonial wine and laudanum, or of Dover's powder, every evening.

It was not thought necessary, however, to confine such patients constantly to their beds; and they were seldom exposed to the vapour of burning spirit to excite perspiration; for it was deemed sufficient to produce and support a moist state of the skin, without urging the process so far as to occasion profuse sweating. This plan of treatment was sometimes

* Ulrichi de Hutten, De Morbi Gallici curatione per administrationem Ligni Guaiaci.

Boerhaave Aphrod. in Prefat.

of singular advantage to those whose health had sustained injury, from the complicated operation of the disease, combined with confinement, and a long course of mercury. The breaches made in the constitution were repaired; the strength was recruited; untractable ulcers were frequently healed; carious bones exfoliated; and those anomalous symptoms which would have been exasperated by mercury, yielded readily to the decoction of Guaiacum.

In tracing carefully the history of this once celebrated remedy, nothing can be more evident than this, that it was administered to persons afflicted with very different forms of disease. One numerous class of patients consisted of those who, having used mercury according to the severe and often injudicious mode which was practised two centuries ago, found themselves harrassed with pains, nodes, ulcers, and several other symptoms, from which they were finally relieved by a course of Guaiacum: hence it was concluded, that this medicine was superior, as an antidote, to mercury. Another class adopted the Guaiacum course from the first attack of their disease; and, deriving sensible benefit, they hastily presumed that a cure was accomplished; but, although

though their frequent relapses might have shaken their confidence, yet, as the renewal of their Guaiacum course mitigated the violence of their symptoms, and often produced considerable appearances of amendment, they preferred this palliative method of proceeding, to the more distressing concomitants of a course of mercury.

In addition to these observations, it may be farther suggested, without any violation of candour, or of respect to our predecessors, that at a time when the natural history of Lues venerea was so imperfectly understood, many morbid appearances, totally unconnected with that poison, were nevertheless referred to it; and that the cure of such mistaken symptoms, would contribute greatly to augment the fame of the remedy. When it is therefore considered, that the good effects of Guaiacum are not absolutely confined to those cases, where a quantity of mercury sufficient to destroy the syphilitic virus has been introduced into the system; but that it may operate like a true antidote, suspending for a time the progress of certain venereal symptoms, and removing other appearances altogether, where subsequent experience nevertheless

evinces, that the unsubdued virus yet remains active in the constitution; we shall be competent to the explaining of many of those contradictory assertions, which abound in writers upon this subject

A more enlarged and correct attention to the actual powers of this medicine, have now unequivocally proved it to be unequal to the purposes for which many of our predecessors gave it;* but no experiments which have come to my knowledge, have shewn it to be destitute of all medicinal virtue; nor ought any one, in his eagerness to decry it as a specific remedy, desire to have it expunged from the *Materia Medica*.

I now proceed to give the result of my own observations on the effects of the decoction of *Lignum Guaiaci*.

This decoction commonly excites a grateful sensation of warmth in the stomach; it gives a sense of dryness to the mouth, and creates thirst; it also increases the natural temperature of the skin, and renders the pulse more frequent. If the patient drink the decoction made warm, and lie in bed, it gene-

* Cullen's *Materia Medica*, p. 196.

Apparat. Medicam. Murray, Vol. III. p. 414.

rally proves moderately sudorific; and this effect may be heightened as much as we please, by employing the hot bath, the vapour bath, antimonials combined with opium, or the pulvis ipecacuanhæ compositus. When the decoction has been continued during ten or twelve days, in the quantity of four pints each day, the patient often complains of its producing the heart-burn, accompanied with flatulence; and he is usually costive during the whole course. If the person expose himself freely to the air, while he is taking this medicine, the secretion of urine will be augmented, but no sensible alteration will take place in the state of the skin.

When I have exhibited the decoction of Guaiacum in pains of the bones, as they are called, confining the patient at the same time to the bed, and enjoining a diet consisting of fluids only, I have rarely seen any beneficial consequences result from the use of it, except where it acted as a sudorific; and, in this respect, I think its qualities manifestly inferior to antimony, or volatile alkali. In several instances, after persisting in a course of it during four or five weeks, I have not gained any material advantage; and I have remarked, that when the
dolores

dolores ostocopi were not connected with some morbid alteration of the structure of a part, this medicine was of little avail. When the strength and vigour has been reduced by a successful mercurial course, with confinement to the house, and where a thickened state of the ligaments, or of the periosteum, remains, or where there are foul indolent ulcers, these sores will often heal, and the enlarged membranes will subside, during the administration of this decoction.

The decoction of Guaiacum will often suspend the progress of certain secondary symptoms of lues venerea, for a short time; such as, ulcers of the tonsils, venereal eruptions, and even nodes; but I never saw one single instance, in which the powers of this medicine eradicated the venereal virus. It has been recommended by many people, to combine guaiacum with mercury, with the intention of improving the specific powers, and of counteracting the injurious effects, of that mineral: the advantages to be derived from this compound mode of treatment, are by no means well established; for Guaiacum is certainly no antidote against syphilis; nor have any proofs been given to the public, of its meliorating
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the action of mercury. When the decoction is given during the mercurial course, it sometimes seems to improve the health; but, as it is very liable to produce complaints in the stomach and bowels, the palpable inconveniences commonly surpass the uncertain advantages connected with it; and, as no previous course of the decoction renders the disease milder, nor authorizes us to rest satisfied with a smaller quantity of mercury than usual, it will seldom happen, that a satisfactory reason can be assigned, for giving the two medicines to a patient at the same time. In concluding this chapter, I would farther remark, that I have given the decoction of Guaiacum, with the best effects, to a great number of patients, in cutaneous diseases, in the ozaena, and in scrofulous affections of the membranes and ligaments; and it appears to me, that it is equally efficacious in such morbid alterations, which are not at all connected with the lues venerea, nor with the mode of treating it, as in those cases for which it has been the most highly celebrated.

CHAP. II.

Of the RADIX CHINÆ.

THIS root, which is the product of both the East and West Indies, was introduced into medical practice in Europe, under the character of an infallible remedy against the lues venerea, about the year 1535. Decoctions of the China root had been employed with advantage in cutaneous diseases, and in gouty and rheumatic complaints, before that period; but the real or supposed benefit which the Emperor Charles the Fifth obtained from taking this medicine, procured it a reputation which, had it been confined to people in the common ranks of life, no virtues of its own would ever have acquired.*

The regimen which was prescribed, during the administration of this medicine in venereal cases, was much less rigorous, with respect to diet and confinement in bed, than where Guaiacum was employed; and the course was sel-

* Vesalii. Opera, Tom. II. Frampton, Fol. 13.

dom protracted beyond thirty days: these circumstances would no doubt contribute to the preference given to this decoction, by those who esteemed it fully as efficacious as the *Lignum Guaiaci*.*

To inquire into the various causes that concurred in procuring celebrity to a root, which in reality possesses few, or perhaps no useful medicinal qualities at all, would be irksome and unprofitable: it may be therefore sufficient to state, that its reputation was of short continuance; that it sunk gradually into insignificance and neglect, and that if a place had not been assigned to it in some compound decoctions, it would, before now, have been altogether overlooked, or forgotten.†

Perhaps, it may not be improper to suggest, that the eager introduction of the China root, at a season when Guaiacum enjoyed the highest reputation as an antidote against Syphilis, may seem to afford something like a presumption, that the latter vegetable did not possess the intire confidence of those who employed it. Without insisting upon an argument of this

* Nic. Massa. in Aphrod. Fallopius ib.

† Apparat. Medicam.

kind, I shall only observe, that this circumstance, along with a multitude of similar incidents, may be fairly resolved into that fickleness, caprice, or love of novelty, which exercise a more powerful influence over the determinations and actions of the greater part of mankind, than a regard either to truth or utility.

CHAP. III.

Of the RADIX SARSAPARILLÆ.

THE root of Sarsaparilla was brought into Europe from the West Indies, about the year 1530, with the character of being a medicine singularly efficacious in the cure of lues venerea. Some of the early writers on the merits of this plant, have been neither distinct nor uniform, in the accounts they have given of its virtues. By some, it was preferred to the Lignum Guaiaci;* while others maintained, that its sanative powers were really inferior to this vegetable, but that they were superior to those of the China root.†

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* Regium est hoc auxilium, & antidotum ad fugandam Luem istam, & hac ratione ego fido Salsæ magis quam Ligno. Imbecillior est certe Ligno: habet tamen ipsa nobiles vires, quibus superat Guaiacum, & est quod si post superatum gallicum restent ulcera, Rhagades circa sedem, duplo citius sanat hæc, quam Lignum Indicum. Fallopius de Morbo Gallico. Cap. LXIII.

† Ut summatim dicam, in Salsaperilia sunt omnes virtutes sicut in Ligno Indico sunt, *sed debiliores*, & ideo medici

The Sarsaparilla was administered under the form of decoction, syrup, and powder; and these preparations were often rendered more complex, by the addition of several other articles of the materia medica, which were supposed to add efficacy to the principal ingredient. Yet, notwithstanding the high reputation which this medicine sustained among the early practitioners, it fell gradually into disuse and neglect; and the decoction of it was at length considered, as possessing merely the properties of a convenient diluent.

The Sarsaparilla root was however brought into more general esteem, about the middle of the present century, by the late Dr. William Hunter, who advised Dr. Chapman to make trial of it, in a very deplorable case of phagedenic bubo;* and, the striking advantages which were derived from the use of it in that instance, induced Dr. Hunter to recommend it to several other medical practitioners. In no long time after this, Sir William Fordyce published a narrative, containing

medici non pauci ejus virtutem augere conantur cum permixtione Ligni Indici.—Atque aliarum medicinarum, & aliorum simplicium permixtione. Nic. Massa. Cap. II.

* Chapman on the Venereal Disease. Ed. 2d.

a series

a series of experiments, made to ascertain the virtues of Sarsaparilla in venereal cases; to which he subjoined such practical remarks as the course of his observations had furnished. I shall insert these conclusions, for the sake of offering some reflections on them.*

1. “ It (Sarsaparilla) will commonly relieve, in a very short space of time, venereal head-achs, and nocturnal pains; and, if persisted in, I believe will always cure.

2. “ In emaciated or consumptive habits, from a venereal cause, it is the greatest restorer of appetite, flesh, colour, strength, and vigor, that I know of.

3. “ When the throat, nose, palate, or the spongy bones in general are affected with a slough or *caries*, it will commonly compleat the cure, if persevered in long enough, provided a mercurial course, I mean by unction, has preceded the use of the sarsaparilla.

4. “ When the body is covered with dry blotches, or moist sores, (still supposing the cause venereal) it will greatly promote the cure, nay often compleat it: but without

* Medical Observations and Inquiries. Vol. I.

“ the assistance of mercury, there will be
“ danger of a relapse.

5. “ In simple chancres it will do little
“ service, but if it is given in cases where
“ the chancres or buboes will not heal or
“ dissolve, after the use of mercurial unction,
“ it will often cure, and always do manifest
“ service.

6. “ It will oftentimes answer, and that
“ speedily, without sweating, confinement,
“ or any very strict *regimen*, at all seasons of
“ the year, where mercurial unctions, and
“ long-continued courses of strong decoctions of Guaiacum, either by itself simply,
“ or compounded with a small proportion of
“ our Sarsaparilla, have failed.

7. “ It would seem probable, from any
“ observations I have yet been able to make,
“ that the Sarsaparilla root is only to be
“ depended on, in venereal cases where
“ mercury has failed ; at least, has preceded
“ the use of the decoction, or when it is
“ combined with it ; and therefore is not
“ to be trusted to alone, unless in such circumstances.

8. “ Mercury alone will in general cure
“ most venereal complaints. The Sarsaparilla will perhaps always cure what resists
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“ the power of mercury. It is therefore
“ probable, that we may find in mercury
“ and Sarsaparilla properly combined, a cer-
“ tain cure for every case that can be called
“ venereal.”

My own experience of the efficacy of Sarsaparilla in venereal complaints, has indeed obliged me to form a very different estimate of its good qualities, from that which is given in the preceding observations ; yet I would by no means affect to depreciate the labours of Sir William Fordyce, or to question the good faith with which his reports were collected. Indeed, the publication of his papers has been attended with the advantage of recalling the attention of medical men, to an useful article of the *materia medica* ; and, if the advocate of this neglected medicine over-rated its useful properties, our obligations are still due to him, for introducing into more general notice, a vegetable remedy which has been too much undervalued by men of eminence in the profession.*

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* Thus it fell into disrepute, and by degrees was almost forgotten, insomuch that of late, some of our
greatest

In the first of the foregoing remarks, Sir William Fordyce has expressly asserted, that Sarsaparilla can cure the venereal disease: the second remark does not express any thing more, than that this vegetable possesses eminently nutritive qualities. In the six following paragraphs, he requires, that a mercurial course shall have preceded the exhibition of the decoction; or that mercury shall be given in conjunction with it. It likewise appears farther, that Sarsaparilla cannot cure the primary symptoms of syphilis; and that, with one single exception, it never cures the secondary symptoms, without the co-operation of mercury. From the general tenor of the paper referred to, I cannot suppose, that the author designed to propose the Sarsaparilla as a competitor with mercury; but that he rather intended to teach, that the former

greatest masters of medicine have asserted, that its decoction is no better than barley water.

Med. Obs. and Enq. Vol. I.

If I was to consult my own experience alone, I should not give this root a place in the *Materia Medica*; for, tried in every shape, I have never found it an effectual medicine, in Syphilis, or any other disease.

Cullen's *Mat. Med.* Vol. II.

medicine

medicine could remove venereal symptoms, to the cure of which the latter was unequal, and which, on some occasions, would even aggravate them. In prosecuting this subject, I shall, for the sake of perspicuity, divide it into two distinct questions.

1st. Is the Sarsaparilla root, when given alone, to be safely relied on, in the treatment of Lues Venerea?

The late Mr. Bromfeild, my predecessor, and, during some years, my colleague at the Lock Hospital, has given a very decided answer to this question: “ I solemnly declare, “ (says he,) I never saw a single instance in “ my life, where it cured that disorder without “ the assistance of mercury; either given at “ the same time with it, or when it had been “ previously taken before the decoction was “ directed.”*

My own experience, during many years, coincides intirely with the observations of Mr. Bromfeild. I have employed the Sarsaparilla, in powder, and in decoctions, in an almost infinite variety of cases; and I feel myself fully authorised to assert, that this

* Practical Observations on the Use of Corrosive Sublimate, and Sarsaparilla, &c. P. 78.

plant has not the power of curing any one form of the lues venerea.

The Sarsaparilla indeed, like the Guaiacum, is capable of alleviating symptoms derived from the venereal virus; and it sometimes manifests the power of suspending, for a time, the destructive ravages of that contagion: but, where the poison has not been previously subdued by mercury, the symptoms will quickly return; and, in addition to them, we often see the most indubitable proofs, that the disease is making an actual progress, during the regular administration of the vegetable remedy.

The nature of that benefit which many persons actually obtain from Sarsaparilla, when they are afflicted with the lues venerea, will form a subject of discussion hereafter; in the mean time, I shall proceed to treat the second question, connected with the inquiry before me.

2. When the Sarsaparilla root is given, in conjunction with mercury, does it render the mercurial course more certain and efficacious?

In replying to this query, it is necessary to observe, that the phrase “to increase the
“ efficacy

“ efficacy of mercury,” may imply, that a smaller quantity of this mineral antidote, will confer security on an infected person, when Sarsaparilla is added to it: or, it may mean, that mercury would be sometimes unequal to the cure, without the aid of Sarsaparilla. If a decoction of this root did indeed possess so admirable a quality, that the quantity of mercury necessary to effect a cure, might be safely reduced, whenever it was given during a mercurial course, it would form a most valuable addition to our materia medica. This opinion has been, however, unfortunately falsified by the most ample experience; and, whoever shall be so unwary as to act upon such a presumption, will be sure to find his own and his patient’s expectations egregiously disappointed.

If the Sarsaparilla root be a genuine antidote against the syphilitic virus, it ought to cure the disease when administered alone; but, if no direct proof can be adduced of its being equal to this, any arguments founded on histories where mercury had been previously given, or where both the medicines were administered at the same time, must be ambiguous and undecisive.

It appears probable, that Sir William Fordyce, and some other persons, entertained a notion, that there were certain venereal symptoms which commonly resisted the potency of mercury; and that the Sarsaparilla was an appropriate remedy in these cases. This opinion, I believe, is not correct, for it militates against all I have ever observed of the progress and treatment of lues venerea.

Indeed, those patients who have lately used a full course of mercury, often complain of nocturnal pains in their limbs; they are sometimes afflicted with painful enlargements of the elbow and knee joints; or they have membranous nodes, cutaneous exulcerations, and certain other symptoms, resembling those which are the offspring of the venereal virus. It may and does often happen, that appearances like these are mistaken for a true venereal affection; and, in consequence of this error, mercury is administered, which never fails to exasperate the disease. Now, if a strong decoction of the Sarsaparilla root be given to persons under these circumstances, it will seldom fail of producing the most beneficial effects; hence it has been contended, that symptoms derived from the contagion of
Lues

Lues Venerea, which could not be cured by mercury, have finally yielded to this vegetable remedy. It must be acknowledged, that representations of this kind have a specious and imposing air; nevertheless, I shall endeavour to prove, that they are neither exact nor conclusive.

If any of the above-named symptoms should appear near the conclusion of a course of mercury, when that medicine was operating powerfully on the whole system, it would be a strange and inexplicable thing, if they could possibly be derived immediately from the uncontrolled agency of the venereal virus: this would imply something like a palpable contradiction, that the antidote should be operating with sufficient efficacy to cure the venereal symptoms for which it was directed; while, at the same time, the venereal virus was proceeding to contaminate new parts, and to excite a new order of appearances.

One source, and a very common one, to which some of the mistakes committed upon this subject may be traced, is a persuasion, that every morbid alteration which arises in an infected person, is actually tainted with the
venereal

venereal virus, and ought to be ascribed to it, as its true cause.

Every experienced surgeon must, however, be aware, that very little of truth and reality exists in a representation of this kind. The contagious matter, and the mineral specific, may jointly produce in certain habits of body, a new series of symptoms, which, strictly speaking, are not venereal; which cannot be cured by mercury; and which are sometimes more to be dreaded, than the simple and natural effects of the venereal virus. Some of the most formidable of these appearances may be sometimes removed by Sarsaparilla, the venereal virus still remaining in the system; and, when the force of that poison has been completely subdued by mercury, the same vegetable is also capable of freeing the patient, from what may be called, the sequelæ of a mercurial course.

I state these facts with confidence, because they have been carefully verified by long and extensive experience: how far they may quadrate, or not, with any particular hypothesis, is not my present concern.

This part of the subject will receive some illustration, by a recital of the following cases.

CASE

CASE THE FIRST.

In the year 1789, I was consulted by a gentleman, on account of a disorder in his throat, which he considered as the return of a venereal complaint. He had used a course of mercury, under the direction of a surgeon, for a chancre, and an ulcer on one of the tonsils: these symptoms had gradually disappeared, and he was declared, by his surgeon, to be cured. In about a fortnight after he had ceased to employ mercury, his throat became painful, and ulcerated; this being considered as a relapse, he resumed the use of the specific, but gained no advantage from it; on the contrary, he seemed worse. At this period, I first saw him:—he was much reduced; had a very quick and feeble pulse; and complained of great general debility. On examining his throat, I found one of the tonsils intirely destroyed; the ulcer had corroded about one half of the uvula, and of the velamen palatinum on that side; and it was proceeding rapidly down the velamen palatinum on the other side. I declared the ulcer not to be venereal; and directed the gentleman to go into the country,

country, to adopt a generous plan of diet; and to take a pint and a half of a strong decoction of Sarsaparilla every day. The amendment which succeeded on his following those directions, was rapid and decisive; he was perfectly well in about a month, and had no symptoms afterwards of a syphilitic nature.

CASE THE SECOND.

A young gentleman had a chancre, which was succeeded by a bubo; and, not using mercury effectually, a venereal ulcer appeared some time afterwards in his throat. His surgeon directed him to keep at home, and conducted him through a very proper course of mercury. The primary symptoms were soon cured; but the ulcer in his throat remained foul and sloughy, and shewed no tendency to heal. When he had nearly employed as much mercury as had been intended, several small tubercles appeared on different parts of his body, which were soon converted into deep foul ulcers, of a considerable extent: these sores were likewise extremely painful, and discharged large quantities of a fetid sanies. The patient was
greatly

greatly emaciated; he had a quick and feeble pulse, and exhibited every appearance of one in a very declining state of health. At this period of the disease, I was consulted; and advised, that the mercury should be discontinued; that he should be taken out every day in a carriage; and that he should take the decoction and powder of Sarsaparilla. The gentleman persevered nearly three weeks, in following these directions, before he experienced any considerable amendment; but, after the expiration of that time, he recovered rapidly, so that his sores were healed, and his health was restored, in about two months from the time of my first visiting him.

These two cases will serve to illustrate what I have advanced in the foregoing pages; and illustration is all I design by them. I should find no difficulty in filling many pages with recitals of the good effects of Sarsaparilla, taken after a mercurial course, where there have been nocturnal pains, swellings of the larger joints, nodes of the periosteum, caries of different bones of the face, and these accompanied with hectic symptoms, atrophy, and other formidable appearances: but I con-
ceive;

ceive, that to multiply narratives of this kind, would be rather ostentatious than useful.

The instances in which the beneficial effects of Sarsaparilla are permanent, are those where the disease has been previously cured by mercury; and where new symptoms have arisen, not at all connected with the active state of the venereal virus. But I have also said, that this vegetable may do service in cases where the syphilitic poison has not been destroyed by the proper antidote: here the advantages derived from this medicine, are merely temporary, and commonly of a short duration. Of the truth of this statement, the following histories will afford a sufficient illustration.

CASE THE THIRD.

R. B. aged twenty-five years, became my patient towards the latter end of the year 1794, after having employed two mercurial courses, unsuccessfully, in the country. When I first saw him, his knees, ankles, and elbow joints, were very much swollen, painful, and almost immoveable; he was greatly emaciated; had a quick pulse; profuse night sweats,
with

with the common hectic symptoms; and his general appearance was that of a man in the last stage of a phthisis pulmonalis. In addition to these complaints, he had a large node on the forehead, and another on the tibia of the left leg. I directed him to take the powder of Sarsaparilla, with lime water; and to use such nourishing diet as his stomach could receive. In the space of three weeks, he had amended considerably; his pains were quite relieved; he could move his legs and arms; his pulse was reduced to nearly the natural standard; and he was evidently regaining his flesh and strength. He persevered in this course of medicine, during two months, and his health seemed to be perfectly re-established: but the venereal nodes which had nearly subsided, now began to increase rapidly; he suffered much from nocturnal pains, and his health visibly declined. Under these circumstances, I concluded that the venereal virus was now proceeding in its usual course, and I accordingly desisted from giving him the Sarsaparilla, and directed the use of mercury.

CASE THE FOURTH.

Mrs. —, aged forty years, had undergone two successive courses of mercury, on account of a venereal ulcer in the throat; and the disease had recurred twice. I saw her first, about three months after the termination of the second mercurial course: at that time she had a venereal ulcer on one of the tonsils, and complained of nocturnal head-achs. The infirm state of her health, rendered the immediate use of mercury improper; I therefore ordered a common gargle; the decoction of Sarsaparilla with bark; and advised her to remove into the country until her health should be improved. By persevering in this mode of treatment, during two months, she recovered her health; the ulcer in her throat was healed; and she ceased to complain of head-ach. From these favourable appearances, she too hastily concluded herself to be well; but, in about six weeks from this period, the ulcer again appeared in her throat; she had a node on one of the parietal bones, and complained as much of pain as ever. I therefore thought it proper to insist on her employing another course of mercury.

CASE

CASE THE FIFTH.

Mr. F. used mercury, under the direction of an apothecary, on account of a chancre, and was supposed to be cured. In about three months afterwards, several venereal blotches appeared on his forehead, and he suffered very severely from nocturnal head-achs. His apothecary, not supposing these symptoms to be venereal, gave him the extract of Sarsaparilla, dissolved in a decoction of the root of that plant. This diet drink suspended the violence of the head-ach, and the eruption disappeared entirely. But, while he was still taking this medicine, with a view of establishing his health completely, the pains returned with an increased violence, and the eruptions appeared again upon his forehead. He now placed himself under my care; and his complaints were finally removed by the administration of mercury.

CASE THE SIXTH.

Mr. C. underwent a long and severe course of mercury, on account of an ulcer in his
D throat,

throat, and a node on the left tibia: at the conclusion of it, he was much emaciated; his health was in a bad state, and he was nearly deprived of the use of his limbs. The ulcer in his throat was, however, healed, and the node had subsided. The gentleman who attended him, supposing the venereal virus to be extinguished, advised a course of warm-sea-bathing; and Mr. C. went down to Brighthelmstone for that purpose. During his continuance there, he derived no advantage from the sea air, nor from the warm baths; and, after remaining nearly six weeks, he returned to town, and requested my attendance. When I first saw him, he was greatly emaciated; was extremely feeble; and the joints of his lower extremities so much swollen and painful, that he was obliged to use crutches, in removing from his bed-chamber into his drawing-room. The periosteum was tender, and somewhat thickened, at that part where the node had formerly existed; but the tumefaction was inconsiderable. By taking the decoction and powder of Sarsaparilla, he recovered his health, regained the use of his limbs, and acquired his usual degree of strength: but, although he flattered himself that
his

his complaints were removed, I suggested some doubts of his being free from the Lues Venerea. In less than three months from the time I first saw him, the node began again to rise, and became very painful; the lower part of the ulna enlarged considerably, rendering the motion of the fore arm, both painful and difficult; a venereal ulcer appeared in his throat; and his body was almost covered with eruptions. The disease in his throat, the blotches on his skin, and the node on the ulna, were removed in a few weeks, by the agency of mercury; but his cure was not completed, till after the exfoliation of a piece of carious bone from the tibia of the left leg.

CASE THE SEVENTH.

One of my patients in the Lock Hospital, who had nearly completed his course of inunction, shewed me a little tumor, resembling a small boil, upon the skin of his forehead, covering the right side of the frontal bone; this tumor was red and painful, and had a small pimple in its centre, containing a transparent fluid. In the course of two or three days, a little

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matter

matter was discharged spontaneously from the boil, and a rapid and extensive ulceration succeeded its rupture. The ulcer soon destroyed a portion of the skin, as large as the palm of the hand; the cellular membrane separated in large offensive sloughs; and the sloughing extended under the sound skin, beyond the margin of the ulcer, occasioning a great extent of hollowness, from this loss of substance. The destruction of the cellular membrane took place in every direction; and the mischief extended as low as the inner angle of the eye.

This ulcer was of a very irregular figure, was extremely painful, and discharged large quantities of an offensive sanies, mixed with corrupted cellular membrane. I suspended the mercurial course; advised the patient to remove from the hospital into lodgings; and directed him to take Sarsaparilla, both in powder and decoction. The sore was washed with a strong decoction of the shavings of Guaiacum, and covered with a carrot poultice. By pursuing this method, with such occasional variation of the dressings as the state of the sore indicated, it was perfectly healed in about six weeks. As I knew that
this

this patient was not perfectly cured of the Lues Venerea, I ordered him to return to the hospital, on the first appearance of any suspicious symptoms: he accordingly applied to me, about a month after the healing of the sore on his forehead, and shewed me ulcers on both the tonsils, and on the posterior part of the fauces; for which I directed a course of mercury.

The ulcer which I have now been describing, is not a very uncommon occurrence: I have seen it several times in private practice, as well as in the Lock Hospital; and it has, in every instance, yielded to the mode of treatment described above.

As my principal design, in the introduction of cases into this work, is illustration, the foregoing histories will sufficiently fulfil the object proposed; I shall, therefore, omit inserting many others which I had selected for that purpose, and proceed to offer some practical observations.

The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth narratives, evince the virtues of Sarsaparilla, in cases truly venereal; they do not, indeed, shew that it can cure the disease; but they afford ample evidence of its power in abating the

violence of some symptoms, and retarding the progress of others, without proving permanently beneficial to the patient.

The seventh narrative presents an instance of what I suggested before; that new diseases may arise during a mercurial course, which are not truly venereal, and which are exasperated by mercury; and that these complaints may be removed by Sarsaparilla, (and sometimes by other medicines,) the original disease remaining unsubdued. The several facts which have been alleged in the course of this chapter, prove very sufficiently that Sarsaparilla is a good medicine; but they likewise militate against the notion of its being an antidote deserving of confidence, in Lues Venerea. It may, perhaps, be urged in its behalf, that it is a specific *quoad hoc*; since it alleviates venereal symptoms, and checks, in some degree, the progress of the disease. Against this plea, however, I would adduce what must appear like a very decisive objection; that no quantity of Sarsaparilla can successfully oppose the action of the syphilitic virus beyond a very limited period; since the disease will continue to spread, and infect the system more deeply, and even demonstrate the

the reality of its progress, by the appearance of new and additional symptoms, at the very time when the patient is under the full influence of the medicine, and is actually taking as large quantities of it as his stomach can retain. Nothing like this is ever seen to occur, during a skilful administration of mercury.

It cannot be deemed necessary to produce any more evidence of the insufficiency of Sarsaparilla, as a proper and certain remedy in the Lues Venerea; but, while I reject it as a specific, I would by no means disparage it as a medicine possessing no valuable qualities. In those cases where the malignant powers of the virus have proved materially prejudicial to the health, so that the patient cannot enter upon the use of mercury with propriety, the decoction and powder of Sarsaparilla, will often retard the destructive agency of the venereal poison, and repair the breaches made in the constitution: it may be sometimes given with advantage, during a course of mercurial frictions, when it does not occasion a determination to the bowels; and it will almost invariably remove many of the most troublesome sequelæ of a course of mercury.

Nor are the salutary properties of the Sarsaparilla root useful in those diseases only that are either immediately or remotely connected with Syphilis; its beneficial effects are often demonstrated in the treatment of foul, untractable, spreading sores; in more than one form of scrofula; and in the Elephantiasis, or at least, in cutaneous affections nearly resembling those to which that appellation is given.

The two following observations, recorded by Mr. Bromfield, may not be unacceptable to some of my readers. “ Mary Parr, aged
“ twenty-eight years, when admitted into
“ St. George’s Hospital, had large blotches
“ on several parts of her body, but particu-
“ larly on her head and face, which were
“ incrusted with broad hard scabs. Her case,
“ from appearances, was judged venereal,
“ though the poor woman declared, she never
“ had any reason to suspect it. A course of
“ mercurial frictions loosened the incrusta-
“ tions, and the subjacent ulcers began to
“ discharge. Some of those on her body
“ seemed to yield to the mercury, though
“ it had but little effect on those of her
“ head and face; and, during the course, her
“ right

“ right eye-lid began to be affected with the
“ same kind of blotch, which ended in a
“ Lippitudo. She continued under salivation
“ seven weeks, and, during the course, the
“ bark was given with advantage.”

Mr. Bromfeild then tried the *Solanum Lethale*, but without any good effect. He observes, “ the old sores broke out, and
“ those she had on her face spread very
“ much, soon after she began taking the last
“ medicine; particularly those on the Alæ
“ Nafi and under-lip; which occasioned a
“ great loss of substance in both.”——“ The
“ remarkable success we had in a similar
“ case, not long before, with the decoction of
“ Sarsaparilla root, made us recommend it
“ for this poor creature, but with very little
“ hopes of success, or indeed of her life. She
“ took it with milk, a quart in the twenty-four
“ hours, and, in a month’s time, her sores
“ were all healed, and she recovered her health
“ and strength.”——

“ The inducement to try the Sarsaparilla,
“ in the above case, arose from the service
“ it had done a poor girl, who had been
“ formerly salivated in one of the city hos-
“ pitals, for large blotches, which were
“ thought

“ thought venereal. They yielded a little
 “ to the mercury during her spitting; but
 “ soon after the eruptions returned, and she
 “ was received into St. George’s. Another
 “ salivation was recommended, which she
 “ underwent with as little advantage as
 “ formerly; she was considerably sunk by
 “ her course of mercury; there remained
 “ deep ulcers in her face; and the Alæ Nasi
 “ were almost destroyed by the sharpness of
 “ the humour. She began the decoction of
 “ Sarsaparilla with milk, drank a quart in
 “ the day, and continued it for a month; by
 “ which means her sores were healed, and
 “ she was restored to perfect health. From
 “ the observations I have made, of the ill
 “ effects of mercury, very often, in scorbutic
 “ habits, I am apt to believe, that the above
 “ cases were both of them of that species, or,
 “ inclining to the lepra, and not venereal.”*

Since the year 1793, in which I published
 some Observations on the Elephantiasis,† I have
 had about seven or eight distinctly marked
 cases of that disease under my care. In

* An account of the English Nightshades, &c.

† Practical Observations on Cancerous Complaints, &c.

one patient, who had blotches on the face, resembling those described by Mr. Bromfeild, the exhibiting of mercury in very small doses, proved eminently useful. The restoration of all the other patients to health, was effected by the use of decoctions, in which the Sarsaparilla root was a principal ingredient.

The opportunities I have had of acquiring a farther knowledge of the history of the Elephantiasis, have furnished me with the most satisfactory proofs, that it is an hereditary disease.

CHAP. IV.

Of the MEZEREUM.

THE Mezereum root is sometimes mentioned, by the early writers on the venereal disease,* as a cathartic proper to be given on certain specified occasions; but it was first introduced into practice, as an appropriate remedy against one order of venereal symptoms, by Dr. Alexander Russell, who published an account of its virtues, in the third volume of the London Medical Observations and Inquiries. “The disease,” says Dr. Russell, “for which I principally recommend the decoction of the *Mezereon* root as a cure, is the venereal node, that proceeds from a thickening of the *membrane* of the bones. In a thickening of the periosteum from other causes, I have seen very good effects from it: and it is frequently of service in the removal of those nocturnal pains

* Aphrodisiacus. P. 108c, &c.

“ with

“ with which venereal patients are afflicted;
 “ though, in this last case, excepting with
 “ regard to the pain that is occasioned by the
 “ node, I own, I have not found its effects
 “ so certain, as I at first thought I had reason
 “ to believe.—I do not find it of service in
 “ the cure of any other symptoms of the
 “ venereal disease.” *

This account of the virtues of Mezereum root, as an antivenereal remedy, is delivered with so much candour and fairness, that if it be not calculated to excite high expectations, it certainly contains nothing that can necessarily mislead. The seventeen cases which Dr. Russell has recorded, do by no means warrant a stronger form of expression than what he has adopted; and, although Dr. Home, in his *Clinical Experiments and Histories*, has asserted, that “ this root is a powerful
 “ deobstruent in all venereal tumors, of the
 “ scirrhus kind, where mercury has failed;” the evidence he has adduced of this fact, is so scanty and insufficient, that it can scarcely be regarded as forming an addition to Dr. Russell’s prior report.

* Med. Obs. and Inq. Vol. III. P. 194, 195.

The Mezereum root is therefore said to have the virtue of curing one symptom of the venereal disease, a membranous node, or, “ a thickening of the periosteum;” while it possesses no efficacy against any other symptom. Now, I conceive, that such a representation of the fact before us, is not free from ambiguity; as it may imply, that the Mezereum can reduce a membranous node, considered as a local disease; or, that it can cure a venereal node, according to the strict sense of the words; so that, when the morbid alteration of the membrane is removed by the agency of this medicine, the patient may be regarded as perfectly free from any venereal taint: or, to state this matter in other words; that the Mezereum root can subdue one particular effect of Lues Venerea, without removing the cause; or that, in the single instance now under consideration, it can destroy both the cause and the effect.

The result of my own experience by no means accords with this representation; from all that I have been able to collect, in the course of many years observation, I feel myself authorized to assert unequivocally, that the Mezereum has not the power of curing
the

the venereal disease, in any one stage, or under any one form.

If a decoction of this root should ever reduce a venereal node, where no mercury has been previously given, yet the patient will by no means be exempted from the necessity of employing mercury, for as long a space of time, and in as large a quantity, as if no Mezereum had been taken.

With respect to the power it is said to possess, of alleviating the pain, and diminishing the bulk, of membranous nodes; nothing peculiar and appropriate can be ascribed to the Mezereum on these accounts; since we obtain the same good effects, from Sarsaparilla, Guaiacum, Volatile Alkali, Blistering Plasters, &c. Nevertheless, venereal nodes which have subsided under the use of any of these articles of the materia medica, will appear again, and often with additional symptoms, if a full and efficacious course of mercury be not submitted to. It has indeed been alleged, that Mezereum always alleviates the pain occasioned by a venereal node, and generally reduces it, where the periosteum only is affected; and that it seldom fails of removing those enlargements of the periosteum

teum which have not yielded during the administration of mercury.

That some instances of success, in cases like these, may have fallen to the share of those who make the assertion, it would not become me to deny; but I have met with few such agreeable evidences of the efficacy of this medicine. I have given the Mezereum in the form of a simple decoction, and also as an ingredient in compound decoctions of the woods, in many cases, where no mercury had been previously employed, but never with advantage to a single patient. I have also tried it in numerous instances, after the completion of a course of mercury; yet, with the exception of two cases, where the thickened state of the periosteum was removed during the exhibition of it, I never saw the least benefit derived from taking this medicine.

In a few cases of anomalous pains, which I supposed were derived from irregularities during a mercurial course, the Mezereum was of service, after I had tried the common decoction of the woods without success; but, even in this description of cases, I have always found it a very uncertain remedy.

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I have made trial of this vegetable in a great number of scrofulous cases, where the membranes covering the bones were in a diseased state, and I am not sure that one single patient obtained any evident and material benefit from it.

The late Dr. Cullen, whose reports may justly claim attention from all medical men, when treating of the Mezereum, in his *Materia Medica*, says, “ I have frequently employed it in several cutaneous affections, and sometimes with success.”* It were to have been wished, that the professor of medicine had specified what those diseases of the skin were, in which the Mezereum was sometimes employed with success: for, if I except an instance or two of *Lepra*, in which the decoction of this plant conferred a temporary benefit, I have very seldom found it possessed of medicinal virtue, either in *Syphilis*, or in the sequelæ of that disease; in *Scrofula*; or in cutaneous affections.

Indeed, the Mezereum is of so acrimonious a nature, often producing heat and other disagreeable sensations in the fauces, and, on

* *Mat. Med.* Vol. P. 215.

many occasions, disordering the primæ viæ, that I do not often subject my patients to the certain inconveniencies which are connected with the primary effects of this medicine, as they are rarely compensated by any other important and useful qualities.

CHAP. V.

Of the CINCHONA.

I Presume, that no well-informed surgeon ever imagined a specific virtue of curing the Lues Venerea, to reside in the Peruvian bark: nevertheless, it cannot be doubted, that every regular practitioner, who is much engaged in treating this disease, has seen as good effects produced by the Cinchona, in cases truly venereal, as by any one of the vegetables which has formed the subject of the preceding pages. If it has been alleged upon plausible grounds, that Guaiacum possesses medicinal efficacy in venereal pains; Sarsaparilla, where there are phagedenic ulcers; and Mezereum, in cases where there are membranous nodes. I would beg leave to add, that in the same sense in which the utility of these plants may be admitted, I would contend for the salutary agency of the Cinchona, in incipient buboes, in ulcers of the tonsils, and in gangrenous ulcers from a venereal cause.

The history of an enlarged absorbent gland in the groin, is frequently involved in too much obscurity, to justify the giving of an immediate and decided opinion upon its real character; and, under such a state of doubt, I have often given the Peruvian bark with singular advantage. The tumefaction has subsided; the gland has become moveable and free from pain, and has returned almost to its natural state; yet, notwithstanding these favourable appearances, the gland has, after a short time, again enlarged, proceeding rapidly to suppuration, and other venereal symptoms have arisen, sufficient to dispel all ambiguity. On the administering of mercury to such patients, the usual good effects of that medicine have taken place, and terminated in the final cure of the disease. Instances of this kind, with some variations, have occurred to me so frequently, that I cannot suspect myself of having mistaken Scrofula for Lues Venerea, in every case; and, if the fact be admitted, that the Cinchona will sometimes reduce a venereal bubo, without curing it, the conclusion which may be fairly drawn, is too obvious to be insisted upon.

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My experience of the good effects of this medicine, in the venereal sore throat, has been more enlarged, and if possible, more decisive. I have repeatedly seen the ulcers become clean, and heal; the voice regain its clearness; and the health of the patient be quite re-established; so that he has concluded himself well, contrary to my decided opinion. The disease has however constantly appeared again; often with the addition of new venereal symptoms; and, under these circumstances, the patient has been invariably cured by mercury.

There are certain peculiarities of constitution, where the primary ulcer produced by the venereal virus, proceeds rapidly into a gangrenous state; and, not uncommonly, the introduction of mercury at this period, rather hastens, than controuls the destructive process. I have received patients, at different times, into the Lock Hospital, with the whole penis in a sphacelated state, where the infection had not been received above a week previous to their admission. To these men I gave Peruvian bark, and treated them according to the methods usually adopted in cases of mortification, without paying any attention to the remote cause of the sphacelus. The penis,

commonly separated near the symphysis of the ossa pubis; the fores healed; and the patients recovered and remained well, without requiring the aid of mercury.

In these particular instances, I supposed, that the early supervention of the gangrene, and the rapidity with which it proceeded, might be compared, not unaptly, to the application of a tight ligature made upon the penis, and that the absorption of the virus was anticipated by the death of the part. The truth of my opinion was justified by the event; for the men did not afterwards suffer, from any form of the venereal disease: yet I do not imagine, that any person will ascribe the extinction of the venereal poison, to the specific virtues of the Peruvian bark.

It may not be quite superfluous to suggest a caution, against employing the mode of reasoning which I adopted, in a general and unqualified manner; for I fear it would not be correct and applicable to any cases, except to those which are recent, and where the destruction of the whole substance of the infected part has been sudden and complete.

I have said, that there are certain constitutions in which a chancre, on its first appearance,

ance; always becomes gangrenous; and I have more than once noticed this very unfavourable occurrence, in the same patient, every time he received the infection, although it did not always prevail in an equal degree. In cases of this kind, the Peruvian bark is indicated, as well by the state of the system in general, as by the mortified condition of the affected part. Under a proper exhibition of this medicine, the sloughs will separate; the ulcer assume a clean and favourable aspect; and sometimes the sore will even granulate and heal.

More commonly however, when all the parts are wearing a promising appearance, the ulcer becomes painful, foul, unequal on its surface, spreads visibly every day, and has thick and indurated edges; and at this period the health begins to decline. The concurrence of these circumstances indicate, that the venereal poison has resumed an active state; that nothing farther is to be expected from the Peruvian bark; and that the administration of mercury ought not to be delayed any longer.

Such facts as I have now stated, are by no means rare and extraordinary; they must

have been noticed by every surgeon who has had the advantage of an extensive practice; yet I will venture to assert, that no such man ever imagines that he is, in a proper sense, curing the venereal disease, while he is merely promoting the exfoliation of parts, the texture and vitality of which have been destroyed by the syphilitic virus.

But, although the Cinchona is a remedy of great utility, when accidents like these supervene, yet it is not a medicine proper to be given indiscriminately, either before or during a mercurial course. Where its tonic qualities are not indispensably necessary, the power it has of diminishing the several secretions, may often occasion it to be extremely detrimental to the person who takes it.

CHAP. VI.

Of OPIUM.

THIS narcotic juice was first introduced into practice, as a specific against the Lues Venerea, at New York, in America, about the year 1779. It was employed in several of the military hospitals there; where it acquired the reputation of a most efficacious remedy; and Dr. Michaelis, physician of the Hessian forces, published an account of a great number of successful experiments made with it, in the first volume of the Medical Communications, in the year 1784.

Opium was afterwards given as an anti-venereal remedy in some foreign hospitals; many trials were also made of its virtues, in several of the London hospitals, and in the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh. Very favourable reports of its efficacy in removing venereal complaints, were published by different practitioners; but, at the same time, so many deductions were to be made, and

so many exceptions were to be admitted, that it required little sagacity to discover, that most of the advocates for this medicine, reposed but a slender and fluctuating confidence in its antivenereal powers. I made several experiments on the virtues of Opium in Lues Venerea, at the Lock Hospital, in the years 1784 and 1785; and published a narrative of them in the second volume of the Medical Communications.

The result of my experiments was very unfavourable to the credit of this new remedy; and I believe, that no surgeon in this country any longer relies on Opium as a specific against the venereal virus.* I have been long accustomed to administer Opium with great freedom, during the mercurial course;

* We have not learned that Opium has been alone a remedy for the venereal disease; and any experiments that we know to have been made, lead us to conclude, that it is never alone sufficient for that purpose. But from almost every experiment made, we are well assured of its being of very great use in almost every circumstance of the disease. It moderates and alleviates every symptom; and in many of them it will do this without the assistance of other remedies.

Cullen's Mat. Med. Tom. II. P. 254.

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and the experience of nearly twenty years has taught me, that when it is combined with mercury, the proper efficacy of the latter is not in any measure increased: that it would not be safe to rely upon a smaller quantity of the mineral specific, nor to contract the mercurial course within a shorter limit, than where no Opium has been employed.

This representation will not, I presume, admit of controverſy; yet we frequently hear people expreſſing themſelves upon this head, as if Opium manifested ſome peculiar qualities in venereal complaints, of a diſtinct nature from its well known narcotic properties, and thus afforded an important aid to mercury in the removal of Lues Venerea. Perhaps it may not be unuſeful to diſentangle this ſubject, from the perplexity in which ſuch indefinite language neceſſarily involves it.

Opium, when given in conjunction with mercury, by diminiſhing the ſenſibility of the ſtomach and bowels, prevents many of thoſe inconveniencies which this mineral is apt to excite in the primæ viæ; and thus its admiſſion into the general ſyſtem is facilitated. Mercury will likewise often produce a morbid irritability, accompanied with reſtleſſneſs and inſomneſcence;

insomnolescence; and it sometimes renders venereal sores painful, and disposed to spread. These accidental evils, not necessarily connected with the venereal disease, may be commonly alleviated; and often intirely removed by a judicious administration of Opium; and the patient will consequently be enabled to persist in using the mineral specific. It must however be perfectly obvious, that Opium, in conferring this sort of relief, communicates no additional virtues to mercury; and that in reality it assists the constitution of the patient, not the operation of the medicine with which it is combined. The salutary effects of mercury, as an antidote, may be diminished, or lost, by the supervention of vomiting, dysentery, &c. Opium will often correct these morbid appearances; and so will spices, wine, an appropriate diet; &c. yet it would be a strange use of words, to urge, wherever these articles of food were beneficial to a venereal patient, that they concurred in augmenting the medicinal virtues of mercury. It may be supposed, that the majority of medical men would understand by the terms, “to assist a medicine in curing a contagious disease;” that the drug conjoined with the
specific,

specific, actually increased its medicinal efficacy ; whereas, in the instances before us, it is the human body only which has been aided to resist the operation of certain noxious powers, which would render a perseverance in the antidote prejudicial or impossible.

The soothing qualities of this admirable medicine, can scarcely be estimated too highly ; yet we must beware of ascribing effects to them which have no existence ; since a confidence in the antivenereal virtues of Opium, would be a source of greater mischief, than its most valuable properties would be able to compensate.

CHAP. VII.

Of the CICUTA.

WHEN Dr. Storck published an account of the virtues of Hemlock, he did not confine his encomiums on the medicinal efficacy of that plant, to its power of curing cancers; but he often expressed himself like a man who had found a specific remedy against every kind of disease. He has accordingly related some cases of Lues Venerea, which were cured by the Cicuta, after every other kind of antivenereal remedy had been tried in vain.* Dr. Collin, who succeeded him, offers likewise a strong testimony of the virtues of the Cicuta, in Lues Venerea.—
 “ Ubi antivenereorum princeps Mercurius
 “ sublimatus corrosivus, in spiritu frumenti
 “ solutus, ob nimium jam a Lue Venerea

* Ant. Storck. Lib. II. de Cicuta.

Van Swieten. Comment. in Aph. Boerh. Tom. V.
 P. 573.

Murray, Apparatus Med. Tom. I.

“ labefactata viscera exhiberi nequit, vel
“ quando aegri illum non ferunt, Cicuta
“ efficax praebet medicamentum, dolores
“ leniens, sopiensque, & ulcera sanans, &
“ corpus teterrimo malo feliciter liberans.
“ De Cicuta efficacia. Cor. IV. P. 153.

The experience of forty years has, however, taught us, that the Cicuta is a medicine which cannot be absolutely confided in, upon any occasion. I do not intend to affirm, that it is destitute of every useful medicinal quality; for I have often found it a very serviceable article of the materia medica; and have given it in several diseases with remarkable advantage; yet it is, at the same time, so extremely uncertain in its operation, that no man ought to rely upon it for the cure of a dangerous disease, when he is possessed of any other appropriate remedy.

The extract, and the powder of Hemlock, may be sometimes given with evidently good effects, in spreading irritable sores; whether they are connected with the active state of the venereal virus; or when they remain after the completion of the mercurial course. And it would seem, that the benefit conferred by this drug, ought not to be ascribed solely to its

its anodyne qualities; since the same advantages cannot always be obtained by the liberal exhibition of Opium, even where it does not disagree with the stomach.

The following instances will both illustrate and confirm what I have now asserted.

About fourteen years ago, two young women were admitted into the Lock Hospital on the same day, both of them suffering from the secondary symptoms of the Lues Venerea; the most troublesome of which were, large, painful, spreading ulcerations, between, and under, the toes of each foot. They immediately began the usual course of mercurial inunction; and the common dressings were applied to their feet.

When their constitutions were under the full influence of mercury, the other symptoms of Lues disappeared; but these sores remained as large, foul, and painful, as ever. I directed Opium to be given every three or four hours; but no abatement of pain, nor sign of amendment ensued, although six grains of Opium were given in the day. I then ordered, that one of the young women should discontinue the Opium, and take five grains of the *Extractum Cicutæ* three times a day, increasing

increasing the dose five grains each day, till the Hemlock produced some giddiness. When she arrived at fifteen grains of the extract for each dose, her pains abated, and the sores began to look better: she persisted in taking about one dram every day, and in a fortnight the sores were perfectly healed. The other young woman continued taking Opium during a week after the first had begun with the Cicuta; but, when I observed the remarkable advantages which had been gained by giving this last medicine, I ordered this patient to take it in the same manner as the former; and the beneficial effects resulting from the change, were equally striking and satisfactory.

I do not infer, from such examples as these, that Cicuta has the power of removing venereal symptoms, when mercury has failed; because, I conceive that these sores had lost the syphilitic character, and owed their duration to a cause unconnected with the action of that animal morbidiferous poison.

The venereal ulcer which attacks the toes at their line of junction with the foot, is always an ill-conditioned sore, and often becomes gangrenous. As the Cicuta has succeeded very well in several cases of that kind, I

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have been induced to administer it in mortifications produced by other causes; and I have observed, that where a gangrenous ulcer spreads with much pain, where the pulse is hard and frequent, and where there are no appearances of any remarkable debility, the Cicuta will frequently check the progress of the disease; and will bring the ulcer into a clean granulating state, when no good effects had been obtained from bark, vitriol, cordials, &c. and when even Opium, liberally exhibited, had failed of allaying the pain, and was of no avail in restraining the destructive progress of sphacelation.

Several other vegetables have been employed at different periods, against the Lues Venerea; and each has acquired more or less credit as a valuable remedy in different stages of the disease. I shall only mention a few of them.

Sassafras.

Juniperus.

Bardana.

Saponaria.

Saponaria.

Dulcamara.

Juglans.

Lobelia syphilitica.

Astragalus exscapus.

The five first articles, have no good claim to the title of antivenereal remedies: some of them may be occasionally directed in compound decoctions of the woods; but, whatever may be thought of the subordinate utility of each of them, I presume no person will assert, from his own experience, that any one of them can be fairly ranked as an antidote against Syphilis.

The putamen or green rind of the Walnut, has been celebrated as a powerful antivenereal remedy, for more than a century and a half; and Petrus Borellus has given directions for a decoction not unlike that which is commonly called the Lisbon diet drink, in which the Walnut, with its green bark, forms a principal ingredient.

Lue Venerea affecti, tantis cruciatibus olim vexabantur, ut morbus vere remedio praestaret, nunc vero facilè sequenti remedio curari possunt, absque sudoribus, absque ptyalismo, *absque inunctionibus*, licetque nec

cubili, nec cubiculo immorentur. Modus autem ejusmodi est. Acc. Antimonii & Zarzaparillæ ā ʒvi. Antimonium nodulo inclusum, in sex aquæ amphoris, in quibus sit Zarzaparilla cum 40 nucum putaminibus & hylis suspensum, coq. ad tertias, ejusque decocto utatur æger, capiendo ter in die, nempe, mane, meridie, & vesperi, haustum ejus, fumendo, longe a cibus.*

Ramazzini, whose works were published early in the present century, has likewise informed us, that in his time, the green rind of the Walnut was esteemed a good anti-venereal remedy in England. Ex nucum viridi cortice parari decoctum, in Anglia expertæ virtutis ad Luem Gallicam perdomandam, quam *Recentiores* omnes in acidi prædominio statuunt, nuper accepi a Cl. D. Nathan Lacy, Medico Anglo & insigni Anatomico.†

This part of the Walnut has been much used in decoctions, during the last fifty years, both in the green and dry state; it has been

* Histor. & Observ. rarior Medicophys. Cent. II. Obs. 96.

† Ramazzini Op. Tom. I. P. 126.

greatly

greatly commended by writers on the continent, as well as by those of our own country: and is, without doubt, a very useful addition to the decoction of the woods. I have employed it during many years, in those cases where pains in the limbs and indurations of the membranes have remained, after the venereal disease has been cured by mercury; and I have seldom directed it without manifest advantage.

The decoctum Lusitanicum, causes a determination to the skin, more certainly than any of the other decoctions commonly employed; but, what share the antimony may have in exciting this perspiration, I leave to the chymists to determine.

Brambilla and Girtanner also contend for the antiveneal virtues of the green bark of the Walnut: but the result of my own experience will not permit me to add my testimony to theirs. I have given it in as large doses as the stomach could retain, and for as long a time as the strength of the patients and the nature of their complaints would permit: but I have uniformly observed, that if they who take it be not previously cured of Lues Venerea, the peculiar symp-

toms will appear, and proceed in their usual course in defiance of the powers of this medicine.

The decoctum Lusitanicum may be given with great advantage, in many of those cutaneous diseases which are attended with aridity of the skin;* and I have had some opportunities of observing, that when the putamen of the Walnut has been omitted, either intentionally, or by accident, the same good effects have not followed the taking of the decoction, as when it contained this ingredient.

Many years ago, I made some trials of a decoction of the Lobelia sypilitica: but it generally disagreed with the stomach, and seldom failed of affecting the bowels, as a strong cathartic. These effects were inconvenient and prejudicial; and, as I could not observe that the persons who took it derived any evident benefit from it, as an antidote, I soon desisted from employing it.

* Hunczousky, has recommended a decoction of the green bark of the Walnut, as a good application to ulcers. Act. Acad. Vind. P. 209.

Van Swieten,* who has mentioned the antivenereal qualities of this root, upon the authority of one of his respectable correspondents, observes, in concluding his account of it,—*sed & illud remedium evacuando curat.* This great man had adopted a theory, which required, as a *sine qua non*, that antivenereal remedies should be evacuants of some kind; and, having learnt from his friend, that the *Lobelia siphilitica* could act as an emetic, a purgative, and a diaphoretic, he admitted it as an antidote, without making one experiment himself. A considerable quantity of this root was brought into England, at the time when I employed it in the Lock Hospital; but, as no accounts have been published of its efficacy, I may presume, that the trials of other practitioners were attended with no more success than my own.†

* Comment. Tom. V. P. 576.

† The *Lobelia Syphilitica* has never acquired the confidence of medical practitioners in Europe; for Murray observes,—“*Paucissima experimenta in Europa cum eadem capta. Quod mirum; quum neque cultura stirpis difficilis sit, neque radicum illaesarum*” translation,

App. Med. Tom. I. P. 776.

The Astragalus exscapus has been strongly recommended, as an antivenereal, by Professor Winterl of Buda, by Dr. Storck, Dr. Quarin, Dr. Crichton, and Dr. Girtanner.* A decoction of this root is said to act as a purgative and diaphoretic; and to cure the secondary symptoms of Lues Venerea, in cases where no mercury has been previously employed. I must acknowledge, that the accounts which I have read of its antivenereal powers, have by no means produced a conviction in my mind, of its meriting the character it has obtained. I never employed it; and, until some more decisive evidence of its safety and efficacy be made public, I shall not subject my patients to the hazard of experiments, which, if not attended with real and permanent advantage, may inflict irremediable mischief.

I would by no means however offer any suggestions with a view of discrediting the accounts that have been published of the virtues of the Astragalus exscapus, since I cannot produce any evidence collected from my own observations: but some portion of

* Quarin. Animad. Præt. Cap. XVI. Med. Journal. Vol. IX.

scepticism may perhaps be tolerated in a person, whose experiments made with a variety of vegetable remedies in Lues Venerea, and such as have been recommended by the most respectable authorities, have proved uniformly unsuccessful.*

* Murray informs his readers, that the Astragalus exscapus has not maintained its reputation with all those physicians who at first gave a favourable report of its efficacy.

Appar. Med. Tom. II. P. 472.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the AMMONIA PRÆPARATA.

THE Volatile Alkali was recommended as a potent and certain remedy against Lues Venerea, by Monsieur Peyrilhe, more than twenty years ago: and this physician extolled it as a medicine of greater efficacy than mercury; always curing the disease, without injuring the health of those who took it. An interval of ten years intervened between the publication of the first and second edition of his work upon this subject; during this large portion of time, he and his medical friends were making frequent trials of the virtues of the new remedy he had introduced; he found his first reports confirmed by an ample number of subsequent experiments, and thus gained additional evidence of the efficacy of this preparation. Such are the authorities upon which the Volatile Alkali was confidently proposed

proposed to the world, as a new and certain specific against Syphilis.*

The work which details an account of this hitherto unknown quality of the Ammonia præparata, discloses likewise some curious and uncommon opinions; but the author has so mingled the various parts of his hypothesis, with the description of the disease and its symptoms, that it is not always easy to discover, when M. Peyrilhe is indulging the fallies of a brilliant imagination, and when he is describing the order, progress, and connexion of real phenomena.

The following account of the efficacy of this new remedy, I give in the words of the author:—Nous avons vu céder assez constamment à l'action de l'Alkali volatil, plus ou moins soutenue, les gonorrhées virulentes simples des deux sexes, les chancres, les bubons, les exostoses fausses, dont le tissu cellulaire n'a pas entièrement perdu son organisation, les duretés lymphatiques des corps caverneux, certains espèces de rétention d'urine, tous les symptômes dépendans de la cachexie vénérienne, maux de tête gravatifs,

* Remede nouveau contre les Maladies Veneriennes.
foiblesse

foiblesse d'estomac, fleurs blanches suspectes, pustules, dartres, douleurs vagues des membres, douleurs nocturnes, & même, à notre grand étonnement, des engorgemens de la matrice durs, douloureux, suppurés, & quelques-uns réputés squirrheux. P. 27, 28.

The author informs his readers, in other parts of his work, that the presence of Scrofula, or Scurvy, in an infected person, constitutes no obstacle to the cure of the Lues Venerea, when the new remedy is employed; and, what may seem still more extraordinary, that the Volatile Alkali is better adapted to the cure of the disease in its more advanced stages, than when the infection is recent.

This learned writer farther maintains, that the Lues Venerea must be cured by exciting a fever; that mercury, by its peculiar stimulus, can produce the proper febrile state of the system, but that the Volatile Alkali is preferable to it: and he confidently affirms, that an inflammatory fever, has many times radically cured the most serious and inveterate venereal complaints.* P. 75.

I have

* This opinion did not originate with M. Peyrilhe; it occurs in a work published by Jacobus Vercellonus, in

I have no intention of entering largely into a discussion of the merits of this theory; my first object is, to state the result of my own experience of the virtues of Volatile Alkali, as an antivenereal remedy.

Many years before I read M. Peyrilhe's work, I had been accustomed to give Volatile Alkali, in large doses, to such venereal patients as suffered severely from the dolores ostocopi; and the medicine was very often useful to them; but I never suspected it of possessing the important quality of an antidote to the virus. After I became acquainted with the opinions maintained in that work, I paid more attention to the effects of the Ammonia; and no long space of time elapsed, before I observed, that like other diaphoretic medicines,

in 1722, intitled *De Pudendorum morbis et Lue Venerea*.

“*Febris Lue Venereæ superveniens morbum solvit. Testatur hoc continua experientia.*” — After giving some instances in confirmation of this doctrine, he adds, “*Et ego equidem sanatæ Luis nullum certius habeo indicium ipsa febre, quæ usum pharmacorum exuperit, ita nimirum, ut quum aegrum Ephemerâ aliquâ laborantem invenio, statim denunciem ipsum à Lue integre convaluisse.*” P. 224—5.

such

such as Antimony, Pulvis Ipecacuanhæ compositus, Antimony combined with Opium, Warm-bathing, &c. it suspended the progress of some venereal symptoms, and removed others; but that no permanent benefit was obtained by using it.

The Volatile Alkali will often relieve pains of the limbs; it will sometimes remove a venereal eruption; and even restrain for a time the progress of the disease: but, at other times, the virus will continue its destructive course, during the administration of this medicine; and the symptoms which were apparently cured, never fail of returning again, while the patient is actually persisting in taking full doses of this pretended specific.

CASE THE EIGHTH.

A young gentleman had a large chancre on the preputium, for which he employed mercury during eighteen days. As the sore was then completely healed, he absolutely refused to persist any longer in using his medicines, and went into the country. At the expiration of about three months, he
informed

informed me by a letter, that he was become very lame; that his ankles swelled much every night; and that he had nearly lost the use of one arm. I expressed my suspicions to him, that those complaints were venereal; but, as he would not come to London at that time, I advised him to go into a hot bath. He bathed only twice, and was so intirely relieved, that he concluded himself to be quite well. In about a month after this apparent recovery, he came to town, and complained of pains, resembling the rheumatism, in every limb; the tumefaction of the ankles had appeared again; but he was very unwilling to believe that his case was venereal. I ordered him to take two drams of the Spiritus Salis Ammoniaci, properly diluted, every day; and in about ten days his symptoms were removed. In a fortnight, the œdema returned; he became very lame, and venereal eruptions appeared on the skin. I then insisted upon his having recourse to mercury immediately; by which he was cured in the usual space of time.

CASE THE NINTH.

A gentleman shewed me a swelling of the periosteum, at the upper part of the tibia, which I told him was a venereal node. The history he gave of himself was such as to render the correctness of my opinion somewhat doubtful; and, as he was very confident that his case was not a venereal one, I consented to treat it as a tumour derived from some other source. I gave him the Volatile Alkali in large doses, during a fortnight; and applied a blistering plaster to the part affected; but no advantage was gained. I then directed him to take Opium and Antimony. He found some relief from these medicines; and his pain was greatly mitigated; but he was never quite easy, except while under the influence of Opium. After persisting in experiments of this kind during four or five weeks, I at length prevailed on him to make trial of mercury. He soon obtained permanent benefit from the administration of this remedy; and, after passing through a regular course of it, he was perfectly cured.

I have

I have likewise given the Ammonia præparata, in the quantity of from two drams to half an ounce every day, to patients afflicted with venereal pains and nodes, (which are the very cases in which M. Peyrilhe maintains that it is the most efficacious,) but the advantages have been merely temporary. I have ordered the diseased person to lie constantly in bed, and to drink plentifully of a decoction of Guaiacum, at the same time; yet, under these favourable circumstances, although some relief was obtained for the space of ten days or a fortnight, new symptoms always made their appearance, and those for which the medicine were given, never failed to increase, during the time of employing it.

I meet with some instances every year, of nodes of the periosteum, situated on the tibia, and sometimes on the bones of the upper extremities, accompanied with much pain, disturbing the sleep, and impeding the motion of the limb; but which are nevertheless quite unconnected with Syphilis. These tumours generally yield to the application of blistering plasters, conjoined with the use of sudorific medicines. I have often given the Volatile Alkali to such patients, with evident advantage;

tage ; and I have seen effects equally beneficial produced by Guaiacum, and by the Decoctum Lignorum. Nor is it at all extraordinary, that stimulating medicines, and irritating applications, should prove serviceable in reducing the tumefactions I have described, since they commonly occur in patients of a scrofulous habit of body.

That a fever excited by nature, or by art, will radically cure the venereal disease, is a proposition of too much consequence to be dismissed, without offering some observations upon it.

1. A Gonorrhœa is sometimes accompanied with febrile symptoms, at its first appearance ; but this state of the body is so far from contributing to the removal of the malady, that it generally forms a material obstacle to our adopting the best mode of treating it ; consequently, it is not every kind of fever which has the power even of suspending venereal complaints.

2. I know that a fever will sometimes suspend the progress of a Gonorrhœa ; but I never saw an instance in which it completely removed it. Mr. Hunter relates, that he has seen all the symptoms of a Gonorrhœa
cease

cease on the accession of a fever, and return when the fever has been subdued.

“ So capricious sometimes, (says this useful writer,) is this form of the disease, in its cure, that the accession of an accidental fever has stopped the discharge, the pain in making water has ceased, and the Gonorrhœa has finally terminated with the fever. In some I have seen a Gonorrhœa begin mildly, but a severe fever coming on, and continuing for several days, has greatly increased the symptoms, and on the fever going off, the Gonorrhœa has also gone off.”*

To know the proportion which the different cases would bear to each other, in which the Gonorrhœa has been only suspended by a fever; or in which it has been cured by a fever; or where no particular interruption to its usual progress has occurred, from the supervention of a febrile complaint, would be a curious, and perhaps, an useful acquisition. It is not probable, however, that we can gain this knowledge in a short period of time, since the number of persons in whom these

* Hunter on the Venereal Disease. P. 85.

two disorders happen to be blended, is comparatively small.

My own experience has however been sufficient to instruct me, that a Gonorrhœa may proceed, where there is general inflammation; where there is an Ague; and during the long progress of a Typhus; without gaining any amelioration of its symptoms. On the contrary, in those several instances, the disease was rendered more untractable, and resisted the efforts of the common remedies with peculiar obstinacy.

3. I have seen a great number of persons who were afflicted with the Lues Venerea, pass through violent fevers; inflammatory complaints; the diseases sometimes consequent to parturition; the small-pox, &c. yet not a single instance has ever occurred to me, in which the patient derived any real and permanent benefit from the accession of these several morbid affections. I do not deny,

* That change in the female constitution which is connected with pregnancy, has often a wonderful power of suspending the progress, and of modifying the form of the disease. An account of these, and of some other curious phenomena, will appear in my Treatise on the Lues Venerea.

that

that a temporary suspension of the progress of some particular symptom may have been observable; but I assert that no true and essential alteration in the active powers of the virus, was ever effected by the supervention of such acute diseases as I have mentioned.

CASE THE TENTH.

The following case offers a curious example of the irregularity with which the Lues Venerea sometimes proceeds.

A married woman applied to me at the Dispensary in Carey Street, with a large and painful node, which was situated about the middle of the tibia. The account she gave me of the origin and progress of her complaint was so imperfect and obscure, that I could not immediately decide upon the true nature of it. As her sleep was greatly interrupted, and she suffered constantly from pain in her leg, I ordered her to take Antimony and Opium; and directed a blistering plaster to be applied on the tumour. The part was blistered repeatedly; she took Volatile Alkali, Decoction of Guaiacum, Decoction of Mezereum,

and opiates, in such doses as to mitigate the pain; but she obtained no permanent benefit from this course of treatment. I then ordered her to rub in a dram of the strong mercurial ointment every night. When she had used but four drams, and before her mouth was sensibly affected, she became ill, with the symptoms of a common fever; which rendered it proper for her to discontinue the frictions. The febrile complaint was nearly gone at the end of a week; and at that period a great number of small boils appeared upon different parts of her body. She now became quite free from the pain of the node; the tumefaction subsided gradually; and, by taking Peruvian bark and Cascarilla during a short time, she regained her health, and seemed perfectly freed from her former complaint.

This woman remained well during six months; but, at the end of that time, the node appeared again, attended with pain as before. She was relieved by taking the Corrosive Sublimate; but her situation in life obliging her to go into an hospital, I saw her no more.

I feel myself very little interested in the theories which may be proposed, of the *modus agendi* of Volatile Alkali, or of any other medicine;

medicine; provided such speculations do not corrupt the history of the disease, nor sanction an inadequate, or pernicious mode of treating it.

But, if it were to become a prevailing opinion, that a fever being the cure of Lues Venerea, whatever medicine could excite and support a febrile commotion in the human frame, would operate as a specific remedy in the cure of that disease; such a proposition, reduced into practice, would be attended with the most mischievous consequences.

The preceding pages contain ample proofs, that certain medicines have a power of interrupting the progress, and of altering the appearances of venereal symptoms, without actually curing the disease; hence it is probable, that mutations in the state of the system, of different kinds, whether occasioned by the efforts of nature, or produced by general diseases, may modify the action of the venereal virus, sometimes to the advantage, and at other times to the disadvantage of the patient.

To be acquainted with these circumstances, as matters of fact, will be highly useful to every practical surgeon; yet, if any one should

undertake to model a system upon such anomalies and unusual occurrences; or should slight or disparage a well known and efficacious method of treating the disease, because it may lie within the sphere of possibilities, that a commotion (not to be defined) excited in the animal body, can remove certain appearances seemingly connected with the infection; it may be fairly questioned, whether the understanding, or the probity of such a person be most worthy of animadversion.

CHAP. IX.

OF THE

TERRA PONDEROSA SALITA,

OR

BARTTES MURIATA.

THIS saline compound was first prepared and recommended as an useful medicine, by the late Dr. Crawford: and an account of its virtues in cancerous and scrofulous affections was published by him, in the second volume of the London Medical Communications.

It would be inconsistent with the design of this work, to recite the observations I have made on the properties and effects of this preparation, in the great variety of cases in which I have employed it, since it was first introduced into public notice. My present plan restricts my account of it, to its efficacy in Syphilis. I never administered it indeed under the character of an antivenereal medicine; but I have given it with great advantage,

tage, on certain occasions, when I could not determine positively, whether the case were venereal or not; and where the disease has afterwards manifested itself by unequivocal symptoms. The following case will present a specimen of its powers.

CASE THE ELEVENTH.

A gentleman had undergone three full courses of mercury, under the direction of different surgeons; and, from the length and severity of the last of these courses, it was presumed that he was cured. He first consulted me, in consequence of the appearance of a tumour on the frontal bone, and a little fore on the Septum Nasi; at the same time, he shewed me a small fissure in the roof of his mouth, where, on examination with a probe, I found the bone uncovered.

As his health had suffered greatly from mercury, and he had been so lately under the influence of it, I ordered him to take twelve drops of the Muriated Barytes, three times a day. When he had persevered in taking this medicine during a month, the
node

node had disappeared; the sore on the Septum Nafi was healed; and I thought that the fissure remaining in the roof of the mouth, depended solely upon the irritation excited by a piece of carious bone, and that it would close when the exfoliation was completed.

Nevertheless, while my patient was actually taking this medicine with the greatest regularity, the ulcer in the nose opened again, and spread rapidly; the node returned upon the forehead; venereal tubercles appeared on different parts of his body; and his health became so materially disordered, that I thought it dangerous to delay the administering of mercury any longer. The gentleman now used a full and efficacious mercurial course, and he has, ever since that time, remained perfectly well.

I have frequently given the Muriated Barytes to patients afflicted with painful and ill-conditioned sores, derived from a venereal source, and it has sometimes proved beneficial, by improving the health, by increasing the tone of the stomach, and disposing the ulcers to heal.

Professor Gmelin recites the good effects he has seen of the efficacy of this medicine, in the following words:—Commendarunt alii
hoc

hoc medicamen in exanthematibus chronicis pertinacibus ; v. g. tinea, lichenibus, scabie ; in ulceribus, ac bubonibus, aliisque malis venereis, experti sunt efficacem Althof, et apud cum Huber et Vogel."*—

The Muriated Barytes ought by no means to be regarded as a medicine void of efficacy. When it is properly prepared, it has the power of suspending, for a short time, the progress of certain venereal symptoms, especially those which are situated in the ligaments, or the periosteum: and it is often serviceable in Scrofula, and in Ulcers connected with Elephantiasis. But these good qualities are uncertain in their operation, and narrowly circumscribed ; nor is it a preparation on which great confidence can be placed, for the cure of any disease with which I am acquainted.

* Appar. Med. P. II. Tom. I. P. 6.

CHAP. X.

OF CERTAIN

PREPARATIONS OF MERCURY.

THOSE who are persuaded of the existence of antivenereal virtues in all, or in any of those articles of the materia medica which have been mentioned in the preceding pages, probably, may not deem the facts therein recited, such as to require them to yield up the opinions they have formed.

They may contend, since I have conceded the power of suspending the progress of Syphilis, and of conferring a temporary benefit at least, upon venereal patients, to the greater part of the medicines taken notice of, that this concession amounts to an acknowledgment of their specific qualities; and that, if they really do good, and successfully oppose the destructive progress of the virus, though with certain limitations, they may, when conjoined with Mercury, increase
its

its medicinal virtue, and give more certainty to its action on the animal system.

It may likewise be alleged farther, that the very same species of arguing which I have considered as valid, when employed against the specific efficacy of the various medicines taken from the vegetable, mineral, or animal kingdoms, may be retorted with equal advantage against the certain efficacy of Mercury, in venereal complaints; since relapses often occur, where that antidote has been employed; and instances frequently present themselves, where new venereal symptoms appear, during the continuance of a mercurial course.

There is much truth contained in these allegations; and it can excite no surprise, if persons possessed of few opportunities of comparing the medicinal powers of Mercury, with those of other remedies, should be induced to conclude, that facts like these, very fairly deprive Mercury of its exclusive claim to the rank of sole specific against the Lues Venerea.

In replying to these objections, I would premise, that Mercury administered in any form, or after any method, or under any circumstances

circumstances which ignorance or caprice may suggest, is not a certain antidote, that is, an infallible remedy, against Lues Venerea. When this medicine is under the direction of an unskilful man, it will fail of effecting a cure, perhaps more frequently than it will succeed; and, what is of considerable consequence to the welfare of the diseased person, the complaint will be generally exasperated by it, and rendered more untractable, than if no Mercury at all had been given.

A long course of observation has convinced me, that if this alarming truth were as clearly understood, and as deeply impressed upon mens' minds, as it deserves to be, the great number of mutilated victims, whose sad condition excites horror, while it calls for commiseration, would be reduced within much narrower limits than I can venture to express.

Indeed, I am so far from feeling alarmed or perplexed, at the examples of ill success which occasionally attend the exhibition of Mercury, or from considering these misadventures as reflecting disparagement or disgrace on that mineral, that I am rather
surprised

surprised at the success which so often attends the indiscriminate use of it.

There is a description of men who scatter abroad their crudities very liberally, in compendiums and essays; a class of productions, seldom calculated to convey information, but principally designed to perform the office of a midwife, by bringing their compilers into public view. With the spurious intelligence collected from these retailers of scraps, many people furnish themselves with a stock sufficient to undertake the cure of their own complaints; and, not uncommonly, impart the precious commodity to others who are less learned than themselves.

That Mercury, conducted by men of such endowments, should often fail of doing good, nay, that it should frequently inflict great mischief, would be according to the natural order of things: but, that it should ever prove finally beneficial, ought certainly to redound to the credit of a medicine, whose salutary agency cannot be invariably frustrated by all the blunders of hardy ignorance.

Before attempting, therefore, to calculate the proportion of relapses which occur where
Mercury

Mercury has been employed, it will be equitable to make the following deductions :

1. Of all those instances in which that medicine has been injudiciously, or absurdly administered.

2. Let all those cases be subtracted, where the circumstances and situation of the patient would not permit a strict compliance with the necessary restrictions ; also all those in which an inconsiderate, a prejudiced, or a refractory disposition, have refused submission to the injunctions of the surgeon ; and it will appear, that the charge of not exterminating the disease, can very seldom indeed be justly imputed to that mineral.

The superior efficacy of Mercury, as the genuine antidote of Syphilis, is sanctioned by the experience of 300 years ; and, what is a circumstance deserving of consideration, not one medicine besides, derived from the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, has maintained its credit, with men actually employed in extensive practice, during a tenth part of that period. Perhaps, it would not be rash to assert, that no other medicine has maintained a general good reputation, as a specific against

H

the

the venereal disease, beyond the life-time of its first proposer.

Men may amuse themselves by declaiming against Mercury, as an uncertain remedy ; they may utter querulous details of its baneful effects, and retail tragical stories of its malignant influence on the body and mind of those who use it : but surely all this turbulent eloquence may be directed with equal advantage, not only against every potent article of the *materia medica*, but against the very aliment by which we are sustained.

Almost every department of physical science contains propositions which require exceptions, or against which objections may be brought that scarcely admit of a satisfactory solution. Yet, notwithstanding these, philosophers do not suppose it necessary to abandon duly verified axioms, because a few phenomena, not perfectly understood, seem to militate against them.

He who shall discard all general rules, because they admit exceptions, ought likewise for the sake of consistency, to renounce all science, because human knowledge is fallible and imperfect.

My

My opportunities of administering Mercury, have not extended to less than twenty thousand cases; and I feel myself fully authorized to assert, that it is a remedy always to be confided in, under every form of Lues Venerea; and, where we have only that one disease to contend with, that it is a certain antidote, and as safe in its operation as any other active medicine, drawn from the vegetable, or the mineral kingdom. Let me not be misunderstood here, as if I meant to say, that it is a certain and safe remedy in the hands of any one who undertakes to dispense it. Quite the contrary:—for a multitude of indisputable proofs might be adduced, that ignorance and error often render it one of the most precarious and mischievous medicines in use.

It is not my design, at this time, to enter into a detailed account of the powers of Mercury, as an antivenereal remedy: I shall restrict myself to offering a few practical observations, on the efficacy of certain preparations, of that mineral, and more especially on that called Hydrargyrus Muriatus.

A solution of Mercury in the Marine Acid, has been long known as a chymical preparation; but it is not easy to ascertain who

it was that first gave it as an antidote in Syphilis.

M. Le Begue du Presle, assigns this honour to Basil Valentine; whether correctly or not, is a question of small importance at present: this however is certain, that it was employed early in the seventeenth century, in England; since Richard Wiseman has described it as a medicine possessing some reputation in his time, although he never thought proper to administer it in his own practice.

Dr. Turner has informed us, that some of his contemporaries were accustomed to give the Corrosive Sublimate, as a medicine capable of curing the Gonorrhœa very expeditiously; and he declaims, in a torrent of coarse, petulant, and illiberal language, against the preparation, and those who employed it.*

The Muriated Mercury was finally introduced into general practice, on the very respectable authority of Baron Van Swieten,

* One Sintelaer, in a work, entitled, "The Scourge of Venus and Mercury," published at the beginning of this century, speaks of the frequent exhibition of Corrosive Sublimate, and condemns it as an unsafe preparation.

who

who recommended it as a preparation of singular efficacy, against every form of the Lues Venerea. This eminent physician directed it to be given in smaller doses than had been usual before his time; and he likewise furnished those who adopted the use of this powerful medicine, with many necessary and useful cautions.

There are indeed some circumstances which induce me to suppose, that the Corrosive Sublimate had been employed as an antivenereal remedy in Russia, before its general introduction into other parts of Europe; and that, probably, Van Swieten derived his knowledge of the safety and efficacy with which it might be given in small doses, from Dr. Sanchez, who resided many years at Peterburgh. The decision of this point, is however an object of no moment in my present inquiry.

We are informed by Baron Van Swieten, that three hundred venereal patients were cured by the Corrosive Sublimate, in the year 1754: that all these persons remained well in 1755; and that two hundred more instances of success were added to the list.

De Haen adds his testimony, in confirmation of the efficacy of this mercurial

salt; and Dr. Locher, who had the care of an hospital at Vienna, appropriated to the reception of venereal patients, has recorded nearly five thousand cases, in which the Hydrargyrus Muriatus had been administered with success.

The three first volumes of the London Medical Observations and Inquiries, exhibit a numerous and respectable list of testimonies, in favour of the antivenereal powers of this medicine; and the permanence of the several cures, is confirmed by attestations, which bear the most unequivocal characters of authenticity.

The high authority of Van Swieten in the province of medicine, induced medical practitioners, in the several parts of Europe, to try the efficacy of Corrosive Sublimate in venereal cases; and it may be sufficient to say, that the favourable reports transmitted by them, of its excellent qualities, would fill a volume of considerable magnitude.

M. Gardane of Montpellier, in a work published in the year 1774, contends earnestly for the unquestionable efficacy of this mercurial salt, both in the primary and secondary stages of Lues Venerea; and declares himself incapable of comprehending, how a medicine

cine shall possess the virtue of removing venereal symptoms very quickly, and yet be unequal to the perfect extermination of the disease itself.*

M. De Horne, who was directed by the French government to make a series of experiments, for the purpose of ascertaining the comparative efficacy of the different preparations of Mercury in Syphilis, has added his testimony to the invariable efficacy of the Corrosive Sublimate; and has expressed himself satisfied that the cures performed under his inspection were real and permanent.†

Domenico Cirillo, a practitioner of some eminence at Naples, advises the employing of Corrosive Sublimate, in preference to every other preparation of Mercury, in a work published by him in 1784.‡ His method is, to mix this salt with hogs-lard, and to make the frictions on the soles of the feet; which is

* *Recherches pratiques sur les différentes manières de traiter les Maladies Veneriennes.*

† *Observations faites & publiées par ordre du gouvernement, sur les différentes méthodes d'administrer le Mercure dans les Maladies Vénériennes.* 1779.

‡ *Osservazioni pratiche intorno alla Lue Venerea:*

a mode of removing Lues Venerea, according to this writer, milder, and less uncertain, than any other in general use.—The ointment is prepared by mixing one dram of Muriated Mercury, previously dissolved in an aqueous Solution of Sal Ammoniac, with one ounce of hogs-lard. Half a dram of this ointment must be rubbed into the sole of each foot, on three successive evenings; then, three more frictions, each consisting of a dram and a half of the ointment, must be employed in the same manner; and finally, two drams of the ointment are to be rubbed in every night, until the patient be cured. The patient must also go into a warm bath, once every three or four days. Dr. Cirillo is averse to the exciting of a ptyalism; and he assures us, that by his method, the mouth is seldom made sore, the Mercury operating principally on the kidneys and skin.

Those who are but little acquainted with medical records and reports, would probably conclude, from such a chain of respectable evidence, that nothing more could be wanting, to establish the credit of Corrosive Sublimate, as an antivenereal remedy of superior efficacy. Nevertheless, this is so far from agreeing

agreeing with the actual state of things, that I am fully persuaded, there is no man in this country who has any large share of reputation to lose, who would venture to stake his character upon the certain efficacy of this mercurial preparation alone, where it would have to contend with the secondary symptoms of the Lues Venerea:

Various trials of the medicinal virtues of the Muriated Mercury, have been made in this country, within the last sixty or seventy years, the results of which do not accord with the foregoing narrative.

Mr. Bromfeild employed it in the early part of his practice; and “found that it could
“not be depended on.” His opinion was confirmed, “by the ample experience of a
“gentleman who had long been distinguished
“as one of the most eminent of his profession,
“in the treatment of the venereal disease.”*
—Mr. Bromfeild then proceeds, “The authorities of late were so great concerning
“its success in the Lues Venerea, that we

* I have some reasons for believing that this gentleman was the late Mr. Sainthill.

“were

“ were determined to give it another trial in
“ the Lock Hospital.”—I shall not transcribe
the whole narrative of his proceedings, as
it will be sufficient to say, that it did not
succeed in those cases where the system was
contaminated.

Comparative trials were also made of the
efficacy of the Salt, and “ of Crude Mer-
“ cury divided with Conserve of Roses:—the
“ effects of this medicine were the same, in
“ removing the symptoms, as the Corrosive
“ Sublimate. To others, a grain of Calomel
“ was given every night: the complaints as
“ suddenly disappeared, as where the two
“ other medicines had been given. The
“ Mercurius Calcinatus was taken, a grain
“ or two every night, and the patients were
“ as soon relieved, as by either of the former
“ medicines.—From the above account it
“ is plain, that the specific quality of the
“ Corrosive Sublimate is only as a mercurial,
“ and that it cannot be depended on in vene-
“ real complaints, where the blood is conta-
“ minated; yet if novelty will recommend
“ it to the favour of any, it is certainly as
“ safe; and equally efficacious with Mercury
“ in

“ in any other shape, given in very small
 “ quantities.”*

The late Mr. Gataker's observations coincide, in general, with Mr. Bromfeild's. “ It may
 “ be unnecessary,” says he, “ to observe that
 “ the Solution of Sublimate was given formerly for the cure of venereal complaints,
 “ and that the use of it was almost intirely
 “ laid aside, 'till Van Swieten communicated
 “ an account of his success by giving it dissolved in spirits.”——“ In consequence of
 “ this account, strengthened by the recommendation of very eminent physicians of
 “ this country, the solution of Corrosive
 “ Sublimate soon began to be in common use
 “ for venereal complaints ; and the effects
 “ of it at first appeared so favourable, as to
 “ induce some to believe that it would supersede the necessity of a salivation on all
 “ occasions.—The result of further and more
 “ general experience has however destroyed
 “ this hope. In obstinate cases, it will sometimes fail even to procure a temporary
 “ relief of the symptoms, and it is a general
 “ observation, and too well founded, that in

* P. 81.

“ many

“ many cases, where it seems to have answered
 “ remarkably well, there is not a sufficient
 “ reliance on the permanency of the cure,
 “ the symptoms being very apt to return.”*

M. Louis, whose surgical erudition, and great eminence in his profession, render his testimony upon this subject highly respectable, expresses himself thus:—*Je l’ai administré avec soin, je l’ai vû donner par d’habiles gens, & il n’a jamais guéri que les personnes qui auroient reçu un plus prompt soulagement de toute autre preparation mercurielle.*—*Parallele des Traitemens, &c. P. 172.*

It may probably administer occasion of surprise to those who are but little versed in inquiries of this kind, that such opposition of testimony should prevail, on a subject where, it must be presumed, the opportunities of reducing opinion to certainty, are perpetually presenting themselves.

In comparing the evidence given by the respective writers, some allowance ought no doubt to be made for diversity of climate; various modes of living; peculiarity of temperament; and other local and circumstantial differences,

* Gataker’s Essays.

which

which may possibly, in some measure, modify the operation of the remedy. But, when every fair deduction and qualification has been admitted, so much direct contradiction will nevertheless remain, that any attempt to reconcile the jarring reports we have recited, would be absurd and impracticable.

It were desirable to arrive at something definitive, upon a question of such importance as that under discussion; yet it would favour too much of arrogance, for any individual to presume that his opinion could be sufficient to make the balance preponderate. I shall therefore avoid the endless and unsatisfactory mode of collecting suffrages, or of balancing testimonies, and adopt a more easy and simple standard of truth; by referring to the general practice of men of acknowledged ability in the profession, and such as have had the most extensive opportunities of appreciating the virtues of this medicine.

In adopting this method, I feel myself well warranted in asserting, that surgeons do not commonly rely upon the Muriated Mercury for the cure of the venereal disease in their private practice; and that, in no hospital appropriated to the reception of venereal patients,
in

in this kingdom, is that medicine administered as the established treatment of the house: I believe the same observation is true, when applied to hospitals on the continent. When it is therefore considered, that a preparation of Mercury so easily procured; a medicine so much more desirable for common use than the mode of treatment by inunction; and, what forms a proper object of attention in all hospitals, a remedy of little expence, compared with the external application of Mercury; when, I say, notwithstanding these advantages, it is little used, and scarcely ever relied on, in cases where the constitution is affected, may we not infer from these facts, that it is declared, by a kind of general consent, to be a precarious and undesirable remedy?

I do not here intend to insinuate, that the Corrosive Sublimate is never employed; nor to deny that it possesses any antivenereal powers: I only mean to contend, that it is not, and it ought not to be, confided in, where secondary symptoms of Lues have appeared; and general practice appears to sanction this decision. If it be inquired, how we are to dispose of the evidence given to the superior virtues

virtues of this medicine, by men of eminence and undoubted probity ; I would ask, what are we to do with the numerous testimonies adduced in favour of the Ormskirk and Tonquin remedies, and of the various other specifics, recommended against the bite of rabid animals ? Are we to receive with implicit faith, the multiplied evidences recorded by great authorities, of the virtues of Cicuta, Belladonna, Arsenic, Vervain, &c. in the cure of Cancer and Scrofula ? — If respectable names, or numerous suffrages, are to be admitted as unexceptionable proofs in every question of this kind, we must express regret, instead of approbation, of the labours of those learned moderns, who have expunged, or treated as obsolete, a far greater number of articles of the ancient materia medica than they have retained. The attention of the public is indeed required, almost every year, to some new medicine of never-failing efficacy ; and another year's experience commonly evinces, that the only foundation of its claim to infallibility is, the property of infallibly disappointing the expectations of those who place confidence in its efficacy.

An aqueous solution of the Muriated Mercury, mixed with the Syrup of Violets, was formerly given by Professor Boerhaave, in doses containing $\frac{1}{8}$ of a grain of the salt, in many obstinate complaints; but there does not remain any proof of his having given it in venereal cases.

Since the time of Van Swieten, Corrosive Sublimate, blended with mucilaginous and saccharine matters, has been very frequently employed as an antivenereal remedy, and with some appearance of success; and, as the mercurial salt, when combined in very small quantities with these substances, does not manifest itself to the taste, nor can be easily detected by the usual chymical tests; hence the *Sieur L'Affecteur*, and other empirical adventurers, have had the audacity to boast, of their possessing a rob, or syrup, which, absolutely containing no Mercury, is nevertheless a specific against the venereal disease.*

I have been an attentive observer, during many years, of the effects of combinations of mercurial Salts with Syrups, such as may be found described in the works of Gardane, De

* Med. Comment. Vol. VII. P. 461 and seq.

Horne, and others; and which are vended by empirics on the continent and in this kingdom, under different titles.* It will be no important concession to allow, that the Gonorrhœa may sometimes disappear during the use of these medicated syrups; because this form of the disease is often susceptible of a natural cure; and it may be also granted, that venereal ulcers of the tonsils, and blotches on the skin,

* Quelles que soient les protestations des charlatans, quelque déguisement qu'ils apportent à leurs remèdes, dont ils varient la forme & le goût au grè de leurs intérêts, & de l'opinion publique, on sait que le sublimé en est presque toujours la base. C'est avec ce spécifique, si dangereux entre leurs mains, qu'ils ne craignent point de présenter leurs eaux miraculeuses, leurs sirops déguisés, & leurs remèdes végétaux, qu'ils assurent ne point contenir de Mercure, & qu'ils annoncent comme une découverte qui leur est propre, & pour laquelle ils demandent les récompenses du gouvernement, avec d'autant plus d'assurance, qu'ils ont l'art de tromper les plus clairvoyans, & de mêler avec adresse à leurs decoctions, ou à la boisson ordinaire des malades, le remède qui peut guérir : espèce d'escamotage fort en vogue depuis quelques tems. C'est en vain qu'on dévoile ces gens à secret, ou qu'on les expulse, en mettant le public en état de les apprécier : ils se reproduisent presque aussitôt; c'est une génération éternelle, que l'avidité fait renaître, pour ainsi dire, de ces cendres.

Obs. &c. par De Horne. Tom. I. P. 118.

are now and then removed by them; yet, in all the instances that have hitherto fallen under my notice, these secondary symptoms have invariably returned.—On the other hand, I have known a three months regular continuance of the Syrup fail of curing recent chancres; in many other instances, I have seen the disease proceed in its usual course, as if no medicine whatever had been employed; and, in some important cases, where secondary symptoms of Lues Venerea were present, the most patient, expensive, and persevering adherence, has not been attended with any real advantage.

It would be foreign to the design of this work, to enter largely upon an enumeration of the medical virtues of the Corrosive Sublimate, and of the various circumstances under which it may be administered with utility; I shall therefore only offer a few observations on its powers as an antivenereal remedy.

I am ready to acknowledge the appropriate merits of this preparation, when they agree with evident facts and observation; for I am not of the mind of those persons with whom a medicine is good for every thing, or good for nothing. Any article in the materia medica

medica may be *bonum quoad hoc*, or *malum quoad hoc*, its efficacy being circumscribed within the lines marked out by actual experience.

When I was first entrusted, early in my life, with the care of the Lock Hospital, I engaged in a course of experiments, to ascertain the power of Corrosive Sublimate in venereal complaints; and, as I have given that preparation in a great variety of different cases, both in public and private practice, during the last twenty years, it may perhaps be allowable for me to express myself with some decision upon this subject.

When the Sublimate is given to cure the primary symptoms of Syphilis, it will sometimes succeed; more especially when it produces a considerable degree of soreness of the gums, and the common specific effects of Mercury in the animal system. But it will often fail of removing even a recent chancre; and, where that symptom has vanished during the administration of Corrosive Sublimate, I have known a three months course of that medicine fail of securing the patient from a constitutional affection. The result of my observations is, that simple Mercury,

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Calomel,

Calomel, or calcined Mercury, are preparations more to be confided in, for the cure of primary symptoms, than Corrosive Sublimate. The latter will often check the progress of secondary symptoms very conveniently ; and I think it is peculiarly efficacious in relieving venereal pains ; in healing ulcers of the throat, and in promoting the desquamation of eruptions. Yet, even in these cases, it never confers permanent benefit ; for new symptoms will appear during the use of it ; and, on many occasions, it will fail of affording the least advantage to the patient, from first to last.

I do sometimes indeed employ this preparation in venereal cases ; but it is either at the beginning of a mercurial course, to bring the constitution under the influence of Mercury at an early period, or during a course of inunction, with the intention of increasing the action of simple Mercury. I sometimes prescribe it also after the conclusion of a course of frictions, to support the mercurial influence in the habit, in order to guard against the danger of a relapse. But, on no occasion whatever do I think it safe to confide in this preparation

preparation singly and uncombined, for the cure of any truly venereal symptom.

I made a series of experiments many years ago, to ascertain the comparative merits of Mercury merely divided by triturating it with mucilaginous substances ; of calcined Mercury ; of Calomel ; of the precipitate of Calomel, produced by mixing it with Volatile Alkali ; of the pulvis cinereus of Black ; of Nitrated Mercury, &c.

The Calcined Mercury, the precipitates of Calomel as they have been called, and the nitrate of Mercury, when given internally, were neither milder in their operation, nor superior in efficacy, to Calomel, or to simple Mercury. Indeed, I prefer these two preparations to any of the former, as being less liable to disappoint my expectations, by exerting their primary action on the stomach and bowels, to the detriment of their more important effects as antivenereal remedies.

When any of the foregoing mercurial preparations were mixed with hog's-lard, and rubbed into the legs and thighs, they neither removed the local symptoms, nor affected the general system in so short a space of time as the Unguentum Hydrargyri. In

other respects, I did not remark any important difference in their agency as mercurial preparations.

The several operose and expensive preparations of Mercury which have had a currency at different periods, as possessing extraordinary medicinal properties, are generally falling into disuse: for it is now commonly understood by men of science in our profession, that *what* we give, is of less importance than *how* we give it.

CHAP. XI.

OF MERCURIAL FUMIGATION.

THE practice of exposing the body to Mercury in the state of Vapour, is nearly of the same date with the discovery of the anti-venereal qualities of that mineral. It was usual, at that early period, to mix Cinnabar with various gums and aromatic substances, to which they often added Arsenic, combined in different proportions with Sulphur: thus injuring the health, and endangering the life of the person they undertook to cure.*

Sunt igitur Styracem in primis qui, cinnabarimque
Et Minium, & Stygni agglomerant, & Thura minuta,
Quorum suffitu pertingunt corpus acerbo,
Absumuntque Lucem miseram, & contagia dira:
At vero & partim durum est medicamen & acre,
Partim etiam fallax, quo faucibus angit in ipsis
Spiritus, eluctansque animam vix continet ægram.
Quocirca totum ad corpus nemo audeat uti,
Judice me: certis fortasse erit utile membris,
Quae Papulae informes, Chironiaque ulcera pascunt.†

* Aphrodisiacus.

Parallele des Traitemens. Chap. V.

† Syphilis Hieron. Fracastorii. Lib. II. P. 38. 4to.

The mischievous consequences which often resulted from the injudicious use of Mercurial Fumigations, gradually lessened the reputation of this mode of treatment, and, in course of time, nearly abolished it. A new mode of fumigating was then introduced, in which the body was exposed to the vapour of Spirit of Wine; this was designed principally to promote sweating; and the diaphoresis was supported during some hours, by the aid of warm coverings, and the exhibition of large quantities of Decoctions of the Woods. But, while the fumigation of the whole body was performed by Spirit of Wine alone, Mercury, in a state of vapour, was applied topically, in cases of ozaena, ulcers of the throat, ulcers of the ears, venereal excrescences, &c. and with evident advantage.

In the year 1736, an empiric, of the name of Charbonnier, appeared at Paris, professing to use mercurial fumigations after a new mode, equally safe and successful. He was permitted to select some patients in different hospitals, for the subject of his experiments; and the progress and effects were superintended by the physicians and surgeons of the respective institutions. Many persons really
affected

affected with Lues Venerea were undoubtedly cured by this man; yet it must also be admitted, that he failed in several instances; and what is still more important, a greater proportion of people died under this mode of treatment, than when Mercury was administered in the usual manner.

The practice of general fumigation with Mercury, being on these accounts discountenanced by Astruc, and by many of the principal practitioners in Europe, was nearly abandoned a second time, when M. Lalouette published, in 1776, what he called, a new method of treating the venereal disease by fumigation. The preparations which this author recommends to be employed as fumigating powders, are analogous to Calomel, and Hydrargyrus cum Creta; and, inasmuch as no sulphureous vapours arise during the process of combustion, these substances may be preferred to Cinnabar, or Æthiop's Mineral; but, on the score of real efficacy as mercurial preparations, it is not easy to explain how far they merit a preference.* The fumigating machine

* M. Lalouette is not the first person who was sensible of the disagreeable effects of sulphureous vapours, and who

machine is indeed a very convenient one, but it is no novel invention, as the author pretends; for the plate given by M. Lalonette, differs in no material circumstance from that published by Nicholas de Blegny, in the year 1683.

In the years 1786 and 1787, having procured a fumigating machine, constructed according to the directions given by M. Lalonette, I made a considerable number of experiments, to decide on the comparative advantages of this method, and the common practice of inunction. I found that the gums became turgid and tender, very quickly; and that the local appearances were sooner removed than by the other modes of introducing mercury into the system. But, to counterbalance these advantages, I observed, that it induced a considerable debility in a short space of time; that a ptyalism was often excited rapidly, and at an early period; and that, consequently, I was often obstructed in pursuing steadily a

who proposed methods of obtaining the beneficial effects of Mercury, by combining it with other ingredients.—Thierry de Hery gave formulæ for this purpose, more than two hundred years ago. *Methode Curatoire*. P. 170.

course

course of treatment, which operated so powerfully on the animal frame.*

The conclusions I deduced from my experiments were the following:—That where checking the progress of the disease suddenly is an object of great moment, where the body is covered with venereal ulcers, or where the eruptions are large and numerous, so that there scarcely remains a surface large enough to absorb the ointment, the application of the vapour of Mercury, will be always attended with evident advantage. But, in addition to these remarks, I think it right to subjoin, that it is extremely difficult to introduce a sufficient quantity of Mercury into the animal frame, in this way, so as to secure the patient against the hazard of a relapse; I therefore consider it as a mode of treatment by no means eligible in general practice.

The vapour of Mercury, when applied to venereal ulcers, to fungi, and excrescences,

* Thierry de Hery, who published a Method of treating the Venereal Disease, about fifty years after its appearance in Europe, condemns general fumigations; but recommends topical ones, as subsidiary to the introduction of Mercury in another way.

is a medicament of singular efficacy, and merits the confidence of the surgeon ; but little or no account ought to be made of the Mercury which is thus received into the circulation ; for we should never, in those cases, introduce a smaller quantity of the specific by inunction, for the purpose of securing the constitution, than if no fumigation had been employed.

CHAP. XII.

OBSERVATIONS

ON SOME

EFFECTS OF MERCURY.

IN concluding this part of my subject, I will subjoin a few practical observations, which may probably afford some useful information to the younger part of my brethren in the profession.

Many persons have taught, that during a course of mercurial inunction, it is unnecessary to continue the friction until the ointment be absorbed; and that the same medicinal effects will be obtained, by merely spreading it over the surface of the skin, as by the more laborious process of rubbing it in as completely as possible. Nothing can be more at variance with truth than this instruction; nevertheless, a doctrine so peculiarly grateful to the feelings of indolent and irresolute

lute patients, has not failed to acquire considerable currency. I do, however, most strenuously protest against this slovenly and insufficient mode of applying the ointment; a mode which must finally end in the injury of the patient, and the disgrace of the surgeon. But I do not think it sufficient simply to oppose so delusive and dangerous an opinion, without urging it as a matter of no inconsiderable importance, that the patient himself ought always to perform the friction.

There may be circumstances indeed, under which an imperious necessity may constrain the violation of this precept; but, whenever it is infringed, it is always at the peril of the patient's safety, unless the assistant conduct it with an accuracy and dexterity which is seldom possessed by those who undertake this disgusting office. Many instances have fallen under my notice, where the ill success of the surgeon could be manifestly traced to this source; and where a compliance with the advice I have now suggested, has been immediately attended with the desired effect.

Another erroneous notion, which I would controvert, is the opinion maintained by many respectable persons, that free exposure to the
air,

air, during a mercurial course, will neither impede the progress of the cure, nor diminish the efficacy of the specific.

It must indeed be allowed, in the first place, that of those patients who suffer only from the primary symptoms of Lues Venerea, a very small proportion restrict themselves from going abroad as usual; yet, notwithstanding the liberty they assume in this particular, they commonly obtain a radical cure of their complaints, in a moderate space of time.

These acknowledged facts do not however constitute any valid objection against what I now contend for; namely, that unrestrained exposure to a dry cool air, has a powerful agency, in diminishing the specific and medicinal virtues of Mercury.

When the venereal virus has produced what are commonly called secondary symptoms, the attempting to cure a patient without confining him to the house, will seldom succeed. In these cases, the failure cannot always be ascribed to certain irregularities to which persons who walk abroad freely are liable; for, where the closest adherence to rules are in other respects observed, the effects

fects of Mercury on the constitution are commonly feeble, and on the disease, irregular, unequal, and imperfect. Even in those persons whose symptoms are inconsiderable and recent a larger quantity of Mercury must be introduced, and it must be continued for a longer time, than where exclusion from the open air can be complied with.

I am aware, that particular instances may be adduced by every practitioner in surgery, of persons powerfully affected by small doses of Mercury, who have taken their usual exercise abroad; but these exceptions can only point out, what no man needs to be told, that a wonderful diversity in the operation of Mercury may be noted, in different constitutions, and under every variety of regimen.

Mr. Hunter seems to have thought, that neither cold, nor warmth, had any material effect on the action of Mercury in the system; but he supposed, that these natural agents might have some effect on the venereal disease, in rendering it more or less susceptible of the medicinal agency of the specific.*

* Treatise on the Venereal Disease. P. 339.

If it be well authenticated, that Lues Venerea does not yield so kindly to the powers of Mercury, when the diseased person is exposed to the cold air, as when he is confined to a warm apartment, we become possessed of a rule of practice which ought always to have full influence, in treating that malady. The reasons that pathologists may assign for this fact, will probably be various and discordant ; but, misconceptions, or difference of opinion, ought not to give rise to any perplexity in the conduct which prudence so clearly dictates upon this occasion : for, whether the action of the venereal poison, or of the remedy employed to cure it, suffer an alteration, from exposure of the patient to the atmosphere, yet, in order to insure success, the obstructing cause must undoubtedly be taken away.

If the subject I am now discussing terminated in a question of mere speculation, the investigation of which had no farther aim than to the solution of a problem in pathology, the reader's attention would be scarcely recompensed by a more enlarged inquiry ; but, since I conceive that the welfare of those who are obliged to use Mercury in large quantities,

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tities, and to continue during a long course of time under its influence, is intimately involved in it, perhaps it may not be unacceptable, if I give somewhat of a detailed account, of the circumstances which led me to the conclusion insisted on in some of the preceding pages.

In the course of two or three years after my appointment to the care of the Lock Hospital, I observed, that in almost every year, one and sometimes two instances of sudden death occurred among the patients admitted into that institution; that these accidents could not be traced to any evident cause; and that the subjects were commonly men who had nearly, and sometimes intirely, completed their mercurial course. I consulted Mr. Bromfeild and Mr. Williams upon this interesting subject, but they acknowledged themselves unable to communicate any satisfactory information: they had carefully examined the bodies of many who had died thus unexpectedly, without being able to discover any morbid appearances; and they confessed that they were equally ignorant of the cause, the mode of prevention, or the method of treating, that state of the system which immediately preceded the fatal termination.

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As the object of my inquiry was of considerable importance, I gave a constant and minute attention to the operation of Mercury on the constitution in general, as well as to its effects on the disease for which it was administered; and, after some time was elapsed, I ascertained, that these sinister events were to be ascribed to Mercury acting as a poison on the system, quite unconnected with its agency as a remedy; and that its deleterious qualities, were neither in proportion to the inflammation of the mouth, nor to the actual quantity of that mineral absorbed into the body. The morbid condition of the system which supervenes on these occasions, during a mercurial course, and which tends to a fatal issue, is a state which, in a former work, I have denominated Erethismus;* and is characterized by great depression of strength, a sense of anxiety about the præcordia, frequent sighing, trembling, partial or universal, a small quick pulse, sometimes vomiting, a pale contracted countenance, a sense of coldness; but the tongue is seldom furred, nor are the vital or natural functions much disordered.

* Principles of Surgery. Chap. I.

When these symptoms are present, a sudden and violent exertion of the animal power will sometimes prove fatal; for instance, walking hastily across the ward; rising up suddenly in the bed to take food or drink; or slightly struggling with some of their fellow patients, are among the circumstances which have commonly preceded the sudden death of those afflicted with the mercurial Erethismus.

To prevent the dangerous consequences of this diseased state, the patient ought to discontinue the use of Mercury; nor is this rule to be deviated from, whatever may be the stage, or extent, or violence of the venereal symptoms. The impending destruction of the patient, forms an argument paramount to all others; it may not be indeed superfluous to add, that a perseverance in the mercurial course, under these circumstances, will seldom restrain the progress of the disease, or be productive of any advantage.

The patient must be expressly directed to expose himself freely to a dry and cool air, in such a manner as shall be attended with the least fatigue. It will not be sufficient to sit in a room with the windows open; he must be taken into a garden, or a field, and live
as

as much as possible in the open air, until the forementioned symptoms be considerably abated. The good effects of this mode of treatment, conjoined with a generous course of diet, will be soon manifested; and I have very often seen patients so far recovered in the space of from ten to fourteen days, that they could safely resume the use of Mercury; and, what may appear remarkable, they can very often employ that specific efficiently afterwards, without suffering any inconvenience.

This simple and successful method of managing persons labouring under the mercurial Erethismus, has the sanction of many years experience; and, in confirmation of its efficacy, I have the pleasure of saying, that I have scarcely lost a single patient from this cause, since I first adopted it.

As Mercury, however cautiously introduced into the human body, will sometimes be determined suddenly to the mouth, producing severe inflammation, ulceration, and the other disagreeable attendants of a copious ptyalism, the acquiring of a medicine which possesses the power of speedily and safely removing a salivation, has always been a great desideratum with surgeons.

Various remedies have been recommended for this purpose, with strong assurances of their efficacy ; such as, Purgatives, Nitre, Sulphur, Gum Arabic, Lime Water, Camphire, Peruvian Bark, Sulphurated Kali, Blistering Plasters, &c. yet I suspect, the reputation of these several articles, rests upon the basis of a scanty and inadequate experience. I do not presume to urge, that the medicines just now enumerated, are absolutely destitute of all utility in a salivation ; but the slowness with which the best of them exerts its good qualities, and the manifest futility of the greater part of them, destroy all confidence in their power to remove the serious inconvenience complained of.

The speedy and decisive advantages resulting from free exposure to the open air, during the mercurial Erethismus, induced me to try whether the same treatment would not confer an equal benefit on those who were suffering from a premature or excessive salivation.—Common prejudice has indeed, during a long time, proscribed exposure to the cold air, as being certainly injurious to those who are under the influence of Mercury ; and the inflammation

inflammation of the gums, cheeks and tongue, is, even at this day, frequently attributed to what is called a cold, as the exciting cause of it. These apprehensions are, however, ill-founded ; for, although freely exposing the person to cold and moisture, or to heat and moisture, during a mercurial course, may be generally considered as improper, yet the aggravation of the inflamed state of the mouth, the supervention of rheumatic pains, &c. ought not to be attributed to pure atmospheric air, but to the water contained in a foggy or damp atmosphere. The good effects of this practice justified my expectations ; for I observed, that the breathing of a cool, dry air, was no less beneficial than pleasant, to a person affected with ulcerated cheeks and gums ; the animal spirits were likewise recruited, and the health so much improved, in the course of a week or ten days, that the patient was generally capable of returning to the use of his medicine again.

I have, accordingly, during many years, constantly directed those patients who have been suffering from this cause, to lay aside all coverings of the face ; to go out in a carriage

with the windows open, and when at a proper distance from town, to alight and walk in the fields as long as their strength would permit. Their apartments ought likewise to be well ventilated; no more fire should be kept than the season of the year may render absolutely necessary, and the person should live in the open air as much as possible. Not a single instance has yet occurred to me where the least indisposition was occasioned by this mode of treatment; and the certain advantages attending it, are such as can only be properly estimated by those who have often employed it.

In recommending free exposure to air, I do not intend to preclude any other subsidiary means, which peculiar circumstances may indicate, or render eligible; such as, cathartics at due intervals; the Peruvian bark and mineral acids; with the assiduous application of astringent and other suitable gargles. The most material objection which I foresee against the method of treatment I have recommended, is the hazard to which the patient will be exposed, of having the salivation suddenly checked, and of suffering from some other disease in consequence of it.

That

That the hasty suppression of a Ptyalism may be followed by serious inconveniencies, has been proved by Dr. Silvester,* who published three cases of persons who had been under his own care; two of whom were afflicted with violent pains; and the third, scarcely retained any food in her stomach, for the space of three months. I have seen not only pains, but even general convulsions produced from the same cause. But this singular kind of *metastasis* of the mercurial irritation, does not appear to me to owe its appearance to simple exposure to cold and dry air; because I have known it occur in different forms, where patients continued to breathe a warm atmosphere, but used a bath the water of which was not sufficiently heated. Cold liquids taken in a large quantity into the stomach, or exposure of the body to cold and moisture, will also commonly prove extremely injurious to those who are fully under the influence of Mercury; whereas, breathing a cool air, while the body is properly covered with apparel, has certainly no tendency to produce any distressing or dangerous consequences.

* Medical Obs. and Inquiries. Vol. III.

If,

If, however, a suppression of a Ptyalism should be occasioned by any act of indiscretion, the remedy is easy and certain; and consists only in the quick introduction of Mercury into the body, so as to produce a foreness of the gums; with the occasional use of a hot bath.

CHAP. XIII.

ON THE USE OF ACIDS

IN

LUES VENEREA.

SINCE the time when the science of chemistry began to be cultivated with successful diligence, and an enlarged and more correct knowledge of the properties of bodies has been acquired by experiments wisely imagined, and skilfully conducted, frequent attempts have been made, though with unequal success, to apply the principles of that useful science, to the phenomena of disease, and the operation of remedies.

When a great number of hypothetical notions are successively proposed, upon subjects at the best imperfectly understood; when systems are constructed upon scanty and fallacious observations, and are chiefly supported by doubtful analogies; it may be naturally expected

pected, that such productions of the fancy will partake of absurdity, or error; or at the best, will present nothing to the mind but undiluted obscurity.*

Those who, with Sylvius † and his followers, contended that the venereal virus was an acid, very consistently denominated Mercury an alkali, and interpreted the ratio medendi of that mineral according to the doctrines of chymical affinities; and, agreeably to these notions, absorbents and alcohol were considered as useful topical applications. On the contrary, the advocates for a predominant alkali being the source of Lues Venerea, directed acids to be given as the true antidote; hence, they “sometimes ordered their patients to eat six large lemons daily, besides

* Jacobus Vercellonus de Pudendorum Morbis.

Disputatum est, utrum acidi, an alcalici, an salini, an putridi generis sit, mihi quidem postremum videtur esse verissimillimum. Kempe Dissertat. P. 11.

† Opera Francisci Deleboe Sylvii. Tract. III. De Lue Venerea.

Mercurius Compitalitius. Art. III. P. 512.

Joan. Muys Praxis Medico-Chirurgica.

Lemery Cours de Chimie, &c.

“ good

“ good store of verjuice at their meals.”* But, into whatever incongruities individuals have been seduced, whether by current prejudices, by erroneous principles, or by the misapplication of right ones, still some advantages have commonly accrued to medical science; for, either the sources of former mistakes have been detected, or unexpected and useful discoveries have been accidentally made. There can scarcely therefore, be any thing more weak and inequitable, than to condemn and disparage a science, because a small number of its professors have sometimes discovered in the course of their investigations, the extremes of indiscretion, self conceit, or temerity. How long, or to what extent the principles and practices now alluded to prevailed in the world, are inquiries which form no part of the design of this work. It may suffice to observe, that the application of chymistry to medicine in the present period, has been conducted with an evidence and a suc-

* Turner's Syphilis. Ed. V. P. 33.

Med. Transactions, Vol. I. A mechanical account of the operation of Mercury, by Dr. Barry.

cess,

cess, which the first promoters of that science scarcely knew how to wish for.

It is probable, that the Vegetable Acid is the only medicine of that class which has been employed as a specific against Lues Venerea, till towards the close of the present century; but, to what extent it was introduced into practice, cannot now be ascertained.

About thirty years ago, an Italian empiric pretended to possess an infallible specific, which contained no Mercury. At the request of some persons of high rank, he was permitted to administer his nostrum to certain patients in the Lock Hospital; and it had the fate which all other nostrums commonly meet, when their virtues are subjected to the scrutiny of men who are qualified judges of the subject. When the medicine was afterwards examined, it was found to consist chiefly, if not entirely, of the essential oil of lemons.

It was, during many years, the practice of the surgeons of that hospital, to order the patients to eat a certain number of Seville oranges, or lemons, every day, when ulcers from a venereal cause became stationary, or untractable; and evident advantages were derived from this treatment. Domenico

Cirillo

Cirillo has likewise spoken in the highest terms of the efficacy of this class of remedies, in obstinate venereal complaints.*

During the last two years, I have paid particular attention to the powers of these Vegetable Acids in venereal cases; but I have not witnessed a single instance in which they proved competent to the removal of any one venereal symptom. The health of the patient has been indeed sometimes improved by the use of them; but the disease was neither suspended in its progress, nor meliorated in its appearance.

A man afflicted with a venereal fore throat, placed himself under the direction of a gentle-

* Ma tutti questi ajuti sono da riguardarsi come presso a poco inertì, se si paragonano all'efficacia dell'acido vegetabile, al quale bisogna dare il nome di medicamento specifico per la guarigione delle piaghe veneree, cagionate da Lue antica, e da eccessive dosi di Mercurio introdotte nel corpo. Non un solo caso di questa natura ho veduto eradicativamente curato per mezzo dell'uso continuo de' Limoni, Aranci, o pure colle larghe bevute di aceto. Nè bisogna limitare l'uso de' Limoni, ma convien permettere anzi ordinare agl'Infermi, che per guarire prontamente nè facciano abuso.

osservazioni Pratiche, &c. P. 168.

man,

man who professed to have great confidence in this remedy. The patient took lemon juice, and the juice of Seville oranges, during many weeks, and I saw him frequently while he was pursuing this course. The virus however proceeded in its ravages, without any sensible interruption, till the bones of the nose becoming affected, the patient very prudently despaired of deriving advantage from a longer continuance of the Vegetable Acid, and had recourse to the use of Mercury.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the VITRIOLIC ACID.

THE Vitriolic Acid, mixed with hog's-lard, has been frequently employed, during the last fifty years, as an ointment against the Scabies, and some other cutaneous affections;* and the same Acid, diluted with spirit, or water, has been often administered internally with great success, in some diseases of the skin.†

I have made great use of the Vitriolic Acid in cutaneous diseases, during the last twenty years; and have also thought proper to give it to various persons afflicted with the Lues

* This medicine was employed in the Prussian army, in 1756, and an account of the success which attended it, was published by Dr. Helmich, in a work intitled, *Dissertatio de Olei Vitrioli usu in quibusdam Scabiei Speciebus*. It is likewise mentioned by Baldinger, in his *Treatise on Army Diseases*.

† See a paper published by Dr. Carmichael Smyth, in the first volume of the *Medical Communications*.

Venerea ; not indeed with the exprefs intention of curing that malady, but with a view of remedying certain inconveniencies which were obstructions to the use of Mercury. These incidental occurrences have furnished me with various opportunities of observing the changes it is found to produce, in venereal symptoms, the most material of which I shall proceed to describe.

When a bad state of health prohibits the immediate introduction of Mercury into the body ; or when the appearances are too equivocal to warrant a prompt decision on the true nature of the disease, and more especially, if dyspeptic symptoms, attended with profuse perspirations, harrafs the patient, and exhausts his strength ; the Elixir of Vitriol will commonly remove these supervenient symptoms, and give a temporary check to the progress of the disease ; nevertheless, the virus will soon proceed in its destructive course, even under the constant exhibition of the acid. I have often seen the Elixir of Vitriol, given in the quantity of two drams a day, evidently arrest the progress of venereal ulcers of the tonsils : and sometimes venereal eruptions will fade and nearly disappear, during the use of it ;
these

these apparently beneficial effects however are never permanent. I do not mean to affirm merely, that the symptoms will recur when the acid is discontinued; but that the disease will make a certain and manifest advance, at the very time in which this medicine is given in as large doses as the stomach ought to receive it.

There are circumstances however, wherein the Vitriolic Acid will confer actual and durable benefit; as in those ulcers of the penis, of the groin, and of the throat, which sometimes remain nearly stationary, after the power of the venereal virus has been completely subdued by Mercury. I have administered the Peruvian Bark, Sarsaparilla, and other medicines of similar qualities, in such instances, without gaining the least advantage; whereas, on discontinuing these, and having recourse to the Elixir of Vitriol, in as large doses as would agree with the stomach, the ulcerations have speedily healed.

I have likewise found this acid very efficient in counteracting the troublesome symptoms produced by Mercury, when it has been determined too powerfully to the mouth. When the ptyalism is accompanied with ulcer-

ation of the tongue, of the cheeks, or of the tonsils, on suspending the use of Mercury, and exhibiting this acid three or four times a day in water, a more speedy amendment is obtained, than by the exhibition of any other article of the materia medica with which I am acquainted.

Some accounts have been lately published, tending to prove the antivenereal virtues of the Vitriolic Acid; and, if the theory proposed by some ingenious men, of the *modus agendi* of acids in this disease, be correct, it might be reasonable to look for such qualities in it, according to the rules of analogy. The experience of many years, has however been so little favourable to expectations of this kind, that I have not thought it necessary to make any farther experiments with this medicine.

CHAP. XV.

Of the MARINE ACID.

THE advantages which may be derived from employing the Marine Acid, in Lues Venerea, both as a medicine capable of ameliorating the appearance of venereal ulcers, and of restraining for a time the progress of the disease, have been observed by me during many years. I was first induced to give this acid in venereal ulcers of the tongue, and of the throat, in consequence of the great benefit which had resulted from my using it in the Cancrum Oris ; and, although I did not view it as an antidote against Lues Venerea, yet I have frequently availed myself of its useful qualities, where it has been desirable to gain a little time, previously to the entering on a mercurial course.

I will recite two cases, for the purpose of illustrating its agency under the circumstances which I have stated.

CASE THE ELEVENTH.

A gentleman consulted me in the year 1796, on account of a fore throat which had resisted all the common remedies, and had been supposed, by some who inspected it, to be of a cancerous nature. The tonsils were much enlarged, and were deeply and extensively ulcerated. From the mere appearance of the sores, I should have concluded them to be venereal; but he assured me it was not possible for him to be infected with that malady. Being in some doubt about the real nature of the complaint, I ordered eight drops of the Marine Acid to be taken in a simple vehicle three or four times a day; and directed him to use a gargle containing some of the same acid. The ulcers assumed a more clean and healthy aspect in about ten days; the tonsils subsided; and in about three weeks the sores were perfectly healed. He persisted in taking the acid regularly; but, in less than a fortnight, and during the time he was employing it, venereal eruptions appeared on different parts of the body, and a very painful node arose on the tibia of each leg. As the
disease

disease now appeared under an unequivocal form, I discontinued the acid, and effected a permanent cure, by a course of mercurial inunction.

CASE THE TWELFTH.

In the beginning of the year 1796, Mr. —, desired me to visit him: he had a node on the shin of the left leg, and venereal ulcers on the uvula, tonsils, and pharynx; his strength was much reduced, his body was greatly emaciated, and he appeared to be in a hectic state. This unfavourable state of his health rendered it improper to employ Mercury; I therefore ordered him to take nutritious aliment, to sleep in the country, and to take a decoction of Sarsaparilla, with the powder of Peruvian bark. The plan I had suggested not proving so beneficial as I expected, I directed the Marine Acid to be given, as in the former case, and ordered him to use a gargle acidulated with the same. In about ten days, the appearances in his throat were sensibly amended; his health was im-

proving, and he gained strength daily ; the node on the tibia was not painful, and seemed to be stationary. When the ulcers in his throat were nearly healed, and during the time he was steadily pursuing this plan of treatment, venereal blotches appeared upon the surface of his body ; and, soon afterwards, the ulcers in his throat began to spread anew. As the reasons for deferring a mercurial course no longer existed, and the disease was evidently gaining ground, I directed him to employ a course of mercurial inunction, by which he obtained a permanent cure.

The beneficial consequences which I had often remarked, from the use of the Vitriolic and Marine Acids, in venereal cases, were sufficiently obvious to engage my attention ; but I never inferred from such instances as are recited in the foregoing pages, that these acids could radically cure the venereal disease. I was accustomed to ascribe the advantages which were derived from these medicines, partly to their salutary effects on the stomach, and consequent improvement of the health of the patient, and partly to their agency as local applications.

As

As the Marine Acid is less grateful to the stomach, I do not prescribe it so frequently, in ulcers forming the sequelæ of a venereal taint, as the Vitriolic Acid ; but, where I have directed it by way of experiment, I have not been sensible of any superior medicinal efficacy which the latter possessed over the former.

CHAP. XVI.

Of the NITROUS ACID.

IT was my intention, about two years ago, to collect and publish a history of the effects of the Nitrous Acid in Lues Venerea; some circumstances intervened, which prevented me from executing my design at that time; and, since that period, the public has received so much information on the subject,* that I find it expedient to contract my views, and to deviate considerably from my original plan.

The first account of the powers of the Nitrous Acid in venereal cases, was published by Mr. Scott, at Bombay, in April 1796: and the papers sent to the Right Honourable Sir Joseph Banks on this subject, were transmitted to me, by the polite attention of Dr. Gray, Sec. R. S. soon after their arrival in

* See the publications of Dr. Beddoes, Dr. Rollo, Mr. Cruickshank, Dr. Ferriar, and several others, on this subject.

England.

England. I began to make experiments with the Nitric Acid in the beginning of the year 1797, at the Lock Hospital. In the course of the years 1797, 1798, and 1799, the Nitric and Nitrous Acids were given to a great number of venereal patients, both in this kingdom and on the continent. Additional communications have likewise been sent by Mr. Scott from India: nevertheless, I am not sure, that the power of this medicine in Syphilis, has yet been ascertained in so satisfactory a manner, as to preclude all difference of opinion upon the subject.*

It would argue presumption in me to suppose, that any thing I can offer, will reconcile the several discordant opinions, or reduce the gentlemen who have made experiments with various success, to a parity of sentiment; yet as the discovery of practical truth is, or at least ought to be, the motive of our researches, he who joins in the inquiry without partiality or prepossession, may hope for a candid attention to his labours.

* Copies of the original letters sent by Mr. Scott, with a copious collection of interesting facts on this subject, have been published at different times by Dr. Beddoes.

As

As the publishing of a great collection of nearly similar cases, can be neither necessary nor useful, when such a multiplicity have already appeared, I shall restrict myself to a small number of instances, and select only those wherein I can vouch for the correctness of the experiments.

The first trials which I undertook with this new medicine, were made with the Nitric Acid; but, as I did not remark any effects in the Nitric Acid, different from those produced by the Nitrous Acid, I commonly employed the latter, in the following manner:

Nitrous Acid, two drams;
Pure water, a pint and a half;
Syrup, four ounces.

This mixture was usually taken in the space of twenty-four hours. As local applications, I employed a saturnine lotion to the fores; and emollient poultices to tumours, and inflamed parts. All mercurial applications were absolutely prohibited.

*Cases in which the Nitrous Acid was given
with Advantage.*

CASE THE FIRST.

Thomas A. aged twenty-one years, was admitted into the Lock Hospital, under my care, November 16, 1797. He had venereal ulcers on the prepuce, and a phymosis.

Nov. 19th.—He began to take two drams of the Nitrous Acid in the day.

23d.—The fores are cleaner, and have assumed a more healthy appearance.

30th.—The phymosis is better, and the fores begin to heal.

Dec. 5th.—The ulcers are nearly healed. A small, red, painful, and pustular eruption appeared on the trunk of the body, which excited great uneasiness. The pustules suppurated quickly, and on the 11th they had become dry, and desquamation began to take place.

20th.—The ulcers are healed, and the phymosis is quite removed.

He continued taking the Nitrous Acid till December the 30th, when being weary of confinement, and having no complaints, he eloped.

CASE

CASE THE SECOND.

T. Macdonald, aged twenty-five years, was admitted a patient at the Public Dispensary, in Carey Street, June the 7th, 1798, with the usual symptoms of a Gonorrhœa. He took the Nitrous Acid during twelve days, when I discharged him cured.

CASE THE THIRD.

W. S. a middle aged man, was admitted a patient under my care, at the Public Dispensary, May the 4th, 1798. He had a chancre behind the corona glandis, of a month's duration. He took the Nitrous Acid till June the 8th, when he was dismissed cured.

CASE THE FOURTH.

Joseph Taylor, aged twenty years, was admitted a patient under my care, at the Public Dispensary, October the 17th, 1797. —He had two chancres on the præputium, and a small one on the frænum; the præputium was considerably swollen. This disease
had

had existed above three months. He was ordered to take the Nitrous Acid.

October 22d.—The sore on the frænum is cleaner, and assumes a healing appearance.

25th.—The sore on the frænum is quite healed; those situated on the præputium are no better.

He complains that his mouth is very sore. The inside of his cheeks look red, and his face is swollen, but his gums are neither turgid nor sore, as when mercury has been taken.

27th.—The swelling and uneasiness about his face and mouth, have entirely disappeared. The acid agrees very well with his stomach and bowels. The smaller sore on the præputium has begun to heal, but the larger one spreads, and is painful.

Nov. 3d.—The small sore is quite healed; the large sore is less painful, but it has not yet assumed a healthy appearance.

10th.—The sore is considerably amended, and begins to heal.

14th.—It is almost healed.

He continued taking the acid till Dec. the 26th. The last mentioned sore had been healed full three weeks; although the cicatrix was a little unequal and hard. I desired him to
return

return to me if any sores appeared again, but I have never seen him since.*

My friend, Dr. Joseph Vigarous, from Montpellier, informs me, that he has given the Nitrous Acid with great advantage in the Gonorrhœa. I have not been quite so successful; for the only instance which has occurred in my practice, of its conferring speedy and decisive benefit in that complaint, is that of Macdonald.

Cases in which the Nitrous Acid was given without Success.

CASE THE FIFTH.

John Ravard, aged twenty-six years, was admitted into the Lock Hospital, under my care, February the 25th, 1797. He had a phymosis; enlarged absorbent glands in each groin; and his body was covered with a venereal eruption. He was ordered to take the Nitrous Acid.

March 3d.—The phymosis is better, and the glands in the groin have subsided; the

* These are the only cases in which I have seen the Nitrous Acid employed with apparent success.

eruption

eruption is paler, and seems to be disappearing from some parts.

9th.—He makes a large quantity of urine. The eruption continues to disappear.

He persevered in taking two drams of the Nitrous Acid every day, till the 26th of March, when I increased the quantity to three drams. The eruption was still visible, although it had a very pale and faint appearance.

April 1st.—The eruption is as vivid, and the blotches have become as numerous, as when he was admitted into the hospital. I accordingly directed him to discontinue taking the acid, and to begin a course of mercurial frictions, by which he obtained a permanent cure.

CASE THE SIXTH.

Sarah Serle, aged nineteen years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, October the 7th, 1797. She had chancres, and venereal eruptions; and began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid on the 9th of October.

16th.—The chancres appear cleaner, and seem in a healing state; the colour of the
M eruptions

eruptions is less vivid. She voids more urine than usual.

26th.—The eruptions have a very pale appearance ; but no desquamation has taken place.

30th.—The chancres are quite healed ; the eruptions have not totally disappeared.

Nov. 10th.—The skin retains the faint mottled appearance which it had on the 30th of October.

Dec. 1st.—The eruptions have assumed a brighter colour, and fresh blotches are appearing on different parts of her body. She was therefore ordered to take no more of the Nitrous Acid, and to begin a course of Mercury. She was dismissed cured, January the 18th, 1799.

CASE THE SEVENTH.

Frances Baldwin, aged fifteen years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, on November the 3d, 1797. She had enlarged absorbent glands in each groin, and was directed to begin taking the diluted Nitrous Acid, November the 5th.

20th.—

20th.—The tumours are less painful, and are much reduced in size.

30th.—They continue to subside.

Dec. 7th.—The glands are enlarging rapidly, and have become very painful.

18th.—A suppuration has taken place in each groin.

I ordered her to begin a mercurial course, and she was dismissed cured, January the 18th, 1798.

The Nitrous Acid sometimes produced sickness and vomiting, and at other times disordered her bowels; but these inconveniences were regularly corrected by the addition of opium.

CASE THE EIGHTH.

Elizabeth Taylor, aged twenty years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, November the 9th, 1797. She had a Gonorrhœa and chancres. She began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, November the 10th. The chancres gradually amended; the Gonorrhœa disappeared; and, on November the 30th, she was free

M 2

from

from any venereal symptoms. She was ordered to continue the Nitrous Acid.

Dec. 7th.—The original chancres remain well; but some painful fores appeared near the anus two days ago, which are now evidently venereal; and an absorbent gland is becoming painful and large in the right groin. She was therefore ordered to discontinue the Nitrous Acid, and to begin a course of Mercury. On January the 1st, the incipient bubo was intirely reduced; and the fores near the anus were almost healed. She was discharged cured on January the 25th.

CASE THE NINTH.

Ann Clark, aged nineteen years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, November the 9th, 1797. She had a Gonorrhœa, attended with dysuria urethralis. She began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, November the 12th; and, on November the 30th the Gonorrhœa was considerably better, but the dysuria was not at all relieved. On December the 4th, an eruption, red and painful, of pustules appeared on the
lower

lower part of the abdomen, and inner surface of the thighs; and the Gonorrhœa had become worse than when she was taken into the hospital. I therefore discontinued the use of the Nitrous Acid, and directed the common mode of treatment in its stead. She was quite cured on the 28th of December, but eloped before she was regularly dismissed.

CASE THE TENTH.

John Roe, aged thirty-two years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, on October the 5th, 1797. He had an open bubo; the scrotum was covered with small foul ulcers; and at the upper part of the thigh there was a large painful sore, with jagged edges. This man had been under the care of a surgeon, and supposed that he had taken Mercury; but he had not employed any medicine for more than three months before his admission. He began to take the Nitrous Acid, October the 7th.

16th.—The sores are easier, and they exhibit evident signs of amendment.

20th.—They improve in their general appearance, and begin to heal.

November 2d.—All the sores are healed ; but I thought it proper to continue the Nitrous Acid.

December 1st.—The ulcers remain well ; but about two days ago a sore began to appear upon the skin covering the ossa pubis, which has all the characters of a venereal ulcer.

January 11th.—The sore has spread considerably, is very painful, and has an ill-conditioned aspect. I therefore discontinued the Nitrous Acid, and directed him to begin a mercurial course.

CASE THE ELEVENTH.

James Thompson, aged thirty years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, November the 2d, 1797. He had ulcers on the external surface of the præputium, and warts on its internal surface, and on the glans penis. He began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, on the 5th of November, and continued it to December the 7th ; without the least appearance of amendment,

ment, in either of his symptoms. I then ordered him to begin a course of Mercury. In fourteen days the sores were in a healing state; and several of the warts had separated. He was discharged from the hospital, cured, on January the 25th, 1798.

CASE THE TWELFTH.

William Southwood, aged nineteen years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, November the 2d, 1797. He had a Gonorrhœa; enlarged absorbent glands in the right groin; and a suppurating bubo in the left groin. He began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, November the 5th.

9th.—The buboes increase, and are more painful.

20th.—The tumours in the groins are somewhat reduced, and less painful.

30th.—The tumour on the right side is nearly reduced; and the abscess on the left side is evidently smaller. At this time, a red, painful, pustular eruption appeared upon the surface of the abdomen, similar to that mentioned in case the ninth.

Dec. 6th.—The eruption is in a state of defluamation; but the buboes are increasing in size, and have become more painful.

He was so much dissatisfied with his mode of treatment, that he eloped the next day; although I had promised to order him Mercury, in a few days.

CASE THE THIRTEENTH.

Jeremiah Leary, aged twenty-three years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, December the 14th, 1797. He had a phymosis, and large venereal ulcers on the præputium. He began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, December the 16th.

21st.—The sores are beginning to amend; and the swelling accompanying the phymosis has lessened.

28th.—His symptoms continue to disappear.

Jan. 11th.—He appears to be quite well. He complains that his mouth is sore, and that he spits blood in the day. His gums look red and turgid; but they scarcely bear any resemblance to that state which is produced by Mercury.

29th —

29th.—One of the ulcers has appeared again on the prepuce.

Feb. 1st.—The fore spreads rapidly, and has become painful; and the absorbent glands in one of his groins are enlarging, and have become uneasy. He was ordered to begin a mercurial course; which in twelve days cured his fores, and reduced the incipient bubo. He eloped from the hospital on the 21st of February, supposing himself to be well.

CASE THE FOURTEENTH.

John Marr was admitted a patient, under my care, at the Public Dispensary, January the 16th, 1798. He received the infection four months before, and had not taken any medicine for it. He has chancres on the præputium; a bubo in each groin; venereal eruptions upon his body; deafness, with tinnitus aurium. He began to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, January the 19th.

30th.—The chancres begin to heal; and the eruptions are less vivid in their appearance.

Feb. 6th.—The chancres appear to be almost healed; and the eruption is disappearing. The deafness, &c. is no better.

13th.—

13th.—The venereal symptoms have made no farther progress toward amendment.

20th.—The eruptions have become more elevated, and are of a brighter colour, and many more spots have appeared upon other parts of his body. The chancres have become painful, and spreading; and a phymosis has come on, attended with considerable swelling of the præputium.

26th.—All his complaints have evidently increased. He was therefore ordered to discontinue the acid, and to begin a course of Mercury, by which he was cured.

The Nitrous Acid agreed very well with his stomach and bowels; and he enjoyed good health during the time of his taking it.

CASE THE FIFTEENTH.

In the beginning of the year 1798, I was consulted by a gentleman who had undergone three full courses of mercurial frictions, without obtaining a permanent cure. At the time when I first saw him, the lower extremity of the tibia of the left leg was exposed and carious; he had nodes on his forehead, and

and severe nocturnal pains in his bones: As he was in a bad state of health, with a quick pulse, and was much emaciated, I ordered him to take the diluted Nitrous Acid. He took this medicine during three weeks, without deriving the least advantage, either to his health, or venereal symptoms. I then directed a course of Mercury to be employed, which entirely removed all his venereal complaints.

*The Three following Cases were communicated
by Dr. BAILLIE, F. R. S. L. & E. late
Physician of St. George's Hospital, &c.*

CASE THE SIXTEENTH.

J. T. aged twenty one years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into St. George's Hospital, July the 26th, 1797. He had severe pains in his limbs, and a large node at the upper end of the tibia of the right leg. He used the mercurial ointment during a fortnight after his admission; but, having a great aversion to Mercury, which
he

he thought had formerly injured his health, he was permitted to discontinue it, and was ordered to take the Decoction of Mezereon. This plan was continued for about five weeks, in which time his pains were greatly relieved, and the size of the node was diminished, but neither of these symptoms was entirely removed. He was then ordered to leave off the Decoction of Mezereon; and he began to take the Nitrous Acid on the 19th of September.*

For two or three days he thought his pains were easier, but they soon became as severe as ever. On the 3d of October, he was ordered to discontinue the acid drink, and to rub in mercurial ointment. By the due use of Mercury, his pains were removed, and the node disappeared.

CASE THE SEVENTEENTH.

H. G. aged twenty-five years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into St.

* In these three cases, a dram of concentrated Nitrous Acid was mixed in a pint of water. The patients first took Lb. I in the day, and gradually increased the quantity to Lb. II.

George's

George's Hospital, August the 23d, 1797. He had ulcers upon his penis; a venereal blotch upon one of his arms; and a venereal sore throat, which had appeared about a month before his admission. He began to take diluted Nitrous Acid on the 23d of August, and continued it to the 29th of September. The sores on his penis had healed, but were now open again; the blotch upon his arm was of a fainter colour; and his throat, which seemed better during the first fortnight, afterwards became worse. He was therefore ordered to leave off the acid, and to have recourse to Mercury. After rubbing in the mercurial ointment for nine or ten weeks, he was perfectly cured.

CASE THE EIGHTEENTH.

W. A. aged twenty-eight years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into St. George's Hospital, August the 23d, 1797. He complained of pains in his limbs, which were always worse during the night; he had also great tenderness of the scalp, with a number of small swellings on the upper part of the head;

head ; there was likewise a venereal eruption on the skin. He began to take the acid drink on the 29th of August, and continued it to the 26th of September. During the first ten or twelve days in which he was taking the Nitrous Acid, he thought his pains were easier ; but the eruption, and the swellings upon his head, were not at all affected by it. His pains however, after a short time, became as bad as ever ; he was consequently ordered to discontinue taking the acid drink, and to rub in mercurial ointment. This course very soon removed his pains, the swellings upon his head, and the eruptions. After having continued the use of the Mercury till it was thought he was secure from a return of the disease, he was discharged from the hospital.

CASE THE NINETEENTH.

*Communicated by Dr. MARCET, Physician of
the London Dispensary.*

Freeman South, aged forty years, was admitted a patient at the Public Dispensary, November the 21st, 1797. He had a very foul,
deep,

deep, ragged ulcer, in the right tonsil; the posterior part of the fauces on the same side was ulcerated, and there was another ulcer near the base of the uvula. He complained of tinnitus in the right ear; he also suffered great pain in that part, and on the right side of the face, when he swallowed his food. He had been married seventeen years, was the father of several healthy children, and he declared that he had never violated the fidelity he owed to his wife. He never had any appearance on his penis resembling a venereal complaint. He was ordered to take the diluted Nitrous Acid. In less than a week the ulcers looked cleaner, their edges assumed a florid appearance, and they began to contract. Soon after these symptoms of amendment had appeared, the sores seemed to become stationary; and, after the acid had been continued four weeks, the ulcers became foul again, and began to spread.

On the 22d of December, Mr. Pearson saw this patient for the first time. He repeated the same history of his disease which he had given before; but Mr. P. urging him with some close interrogatories, he acknowledged that after taking some liberties with a
woman

woman of the town, a painful pimple appeared on the right angle of his mouth, and that when this healed, his throat became sore. As the disease was now making an evident progress under a course of the Nitrous Acid, he was ordered to discontinue it, and to employ Mercury, by which he obtained a perfect cure.

*Good Effects of the Nitrous Acid in Ulcers
remaining after the Cure of Lues Venerea.*

CASE THE TWENTIETH.

James Gingle, aged fifty-one years, was admitted a patient, under my care, into the Lock Hospital, September the 21st, 1797. The projecting part of the penis was entirely consumed by a phagedenic ulcer, which was spreading slowly under the ossa pubis. This man gave the following account of himself;—that he had chancres about eight years ago, and was apparently cured of them: but that ever since, he has been subject to ulceration of the penis, which has sometimes healed during

during a short time, and then has appeared again; that he has not had any connexion with women since he was first affected. His disease was however generally regarded as venereal, and he had, at various times, employed a great deal of Mercury.

From the patient's narrative, and the general circumstances of the case, I did not consider it to be venereal; nevertheless, as I was desirous of knowing what effect Mercury would have in this case, I ordered him to employ mercurial frictions, and to dress the fore with a carrot poultice. He continued using Mercury, from September the 23d to October the 30th; in which time about one ounce and a half of quicksilver was introduced into the system, and the specific operation of that mineral was moderate, but sufficiently evident. At this period the fore was no better; it seemed indeed rather to have increased in size, and was become more painful.

On November the 1st, he was ordered to discontinue the Mercury, and to begin to take the diluted Nitrous Acid, continuing the application of the carrot poultice.

6th.—The pain of the fore is diminished; the discharge is less, and its surface has become cleaner.

9th.—The ulcer continues to amend. As the Nitrous Acid griped him, Laudanum was added to the mixture.

Dec. 7th.—The fore is nearly healed.

16th.—He was so well, that he refused to remain any longer in the hospital, and went away without my permission.

CASE THE TWENTY-FIRST.

*Communicated by Mr. RAMSBOTHAM.**

A young gentleman applied to me in the beginning of February, 1798, on account of a recent, but very foul chancre, which was situated on the side of the penis, near the ossa pubis. I ordered him to rub in the mercurial ointment; gave him small doses of Calomel, with Opium, at the same time; and dressed the fore with Ungt. Hydrarg. Nitrat.

* Late of Wakefield, in Yorkshire, now of Richmond, in Surry.

He

He continued this course during six weeks ; at which time the sore was almost healed, and my patient seemed likely to be cured in a short time. Unfortunately Mr. —, thinking himself nearly well, began to neglect his medicines, and omitted applying the dressings, in consequence of which the remaining surface of the sore became dry, and was crusted over. In about three weeks, the sore became painful again, began to spread, and proceeded gradually over the skin covering the right spermatic cord, at the upper part of which a small bubo formed. I now gave him Mercury again very freely ; and he also took a mixture, consisting of the Decoction of Bark, Powder of Bark, and Laudanum. To the sore I first applied mild digestives, and then a linseed meal poultice. Notwithstanding all my efforts, the sore continued to spread, and, about the middle of April, the ulceration had extended itself in the course of the right spermatic cord, dissecting that part from near the abdominal ring down to the testicle, and exposing the testicle itself to view.

The edges of the ulcer were hard and livid ; its discharge consisted of a fetid sanies, and its tendency to make farther ravages

was but too evident. The Mercury was now discontinued, and he took large doses of Bark, with Opium ; he was also sent into the country, where he lived principally on milk. He continued this plan till the 1st of May : his general state of health was somewhat improved, but there was no favourable alteration in the ulcer. I then accompanied him to Leeds, to consult Mr. Hey, who, having heard the history of his disease, and the mode of treatment, was of opinion that the venereal virus was destroyed. He ordered the linseed meal poultice to be continued ; with the addition of a powder composed of Pulv. Flor. Chamæm. and Pulv. Cinchonæ, to be sprinkled upon the sore ; and instead of the Bark, he advised a preparation of iron, in the form of Dr. Griffith's medicine, to be given ; at the same time exhibiting Opium in such quantities as to keep the patient easy :

The patient followed these directions during ten days, without finding any advantage ; and, as he did not consult Mr. Hey again, I gave him forty drops of the Nitrous Acid, in a pint of Decoction of the Bark, daily. The dressings were continued nearly as at the first ; and I directed him to take a pill every
night,

night, consisting of a grain of Calomel, a grain of Antimonial Powder, and two grains of Opium. In the course of a few days, there was a visible alteration for the better in the state of the sore; the livid appearance and indurated edges gradually diminished; the discharge was more puriform, and his general state of health improved rapidly.

At the beginning of June, the ulcer was much diminished in size, and was healing very fast, when Mr. — was under the necessity of going a journey; he consequently discontinued the Bark and Nitrous Acid; and returned at the end of several weeks, with the sore much altered for the worse, and himself in a state of serious indisposition. A physician was now consulted, who directed medicines adapted to his symptoms; no more Nitrous Acid was administered; and I left Yorkshire before this obstinate disease had terminated.

During the time that I was employed in making observations on the medicinal qualities of the Nitrous Acid in Lues Venerea, I
gave

gave it to several patients who were afflicted with untractable ulcers of the legs ; to children suffering from the cancrum oris ; and in some diseases of the skin. In many of these cases, it was of no service ; and, where any beneficial effects followed the use of it, I did not observe that it was in any degree preferable to the remedies usually employed.

When M. Alyon published his account of the virtues of what he calls *Oxygenated Cerate*, (a composition of Nitrous Acid and Hog's-lard,) I immediately procured some, and applied it to ulcers, to cutaneous eruptions, and to the tinea capitis. The effects by no means corresponded with the expectations which M. Alyon's language was calculated to excite : it was of some service in eruptions attended with pruritus ; but it produced no digestion on the surface of ulcers ; and totally failed of curing every case of the tinea capitis in which I tried it. Perhaps it may be suggested, that the *Oxygenated Cerate* was not accurately prepared : to this I reply, that if M. Alyon's directions be sufficiently explicit, it must have been rightly compounded ; there is however an obscure brevity in his description of the manner

manner of preparing it, which would induce one to suspect that he either purposely concealed some part of the process, or that he wished the world to believe that he was the only person from whom it could be procured in a genuine form.

When the Nitrous Acid is given to patients using Mercury, it promotes the appetite, improves the general health, and lessens the peculiar operation of that mineral on the mouth and fauces, and in these respects, its qualities resemble those possessed by the other mineral acids. Its effects are likewise analogous to what are produced by exposure to atmospheric air.

The Nitrous Acid does not, however, as far as my observations extend, assist, or promote the action of Mercury in the cure of Lues Venerea; so that the surgeon would neither be authorised to diminish the quantity of that mineral, nor to abridge the time usually occupied in completing a course sufficient to give permanent security to the patient.

GENERAL

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

IN concluding this little work, I think it proper to offer the following observations, as the result of my inquiries into the merits of the several articles of the materia medica, in Lues Venerea, which have formed the subject of the foregoing pages.

1. The Guaiacum, Sarsaparilla, Mezereum, Walnuts, Opium, and Peruvian Bark, have often removed some of the primary and secondary symptoms of Lues Venerea, and have alleviated others. They are likewise each of them capable of removing certain sequelæ of Lues Venerea, where the farther administration of Mercury would prove injurious. Yet, no satisfactory series of evidence can be adduced, demonstrating that any, or all of these vegetables, given singly, or combined, are competent to the eradicating of Lues Venerea from the animal body.

2. It must be conceded, that certain indubitable symptoms of Syphilis have disappeared; during a course of the vegetable remedies; but the same symptoms have generally recurred,

3. The Muriated Barytes, and two of the Mineral Acids, when given to venereal patients, have the power of suspending, for a limited time, the progress of the disease, and of removing many secondary symptoms ; but they are not equal to the subduing of the virus, and freeing the constitution entirely from the effects of that destructive malady. They may likewise be employed with great advantage in those phagedenic ulcers of the

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gentials, and of the groin, which may be classed among the sequelæ of Syphilis.

4. The Nitric and Nitrous Acids have removed both the primary and secondary symptoms of Syphilis; and, in some instances, it seems, that the former have not recurred, nor have secondary symptoms appeared, at the period they commonly shew themselves, when the cure has been imperfect. But, as far as my own experience extends, and that of many respectable friends, who are connected with large hospitals, a permanent cure has never been accomplished by these acids, where secondary symptoms have been present.

The same acids, when exhibited with the utmost care and attention to many patients labouring under the primary symptoms of the venereal disease, and where they have agreed perfectly well with the stomach, have been nevertheless, found inadequate to the cure of those symptoms. Indeed the failures which have occurred, both in my own practice and that of many of my surgical friends, have been so numerous, that I do not think it eligible to rely on the Nitrous Acid, in the treatment of any one form of the Lues Venerea.

But

But, while I am obliged thus to detract from the supposed merits of the Nitrous Acid as an antidote against Lues Venerea, I would by no means wish to see it exploded as a medicine altogether useless in that disease.

Where an impaired state of the constitution renders the introduction of Mercury into the animal system inconvenient, or evidently improper, the Nitrous Acid will be found capable of restraining the progress of the disease, while, at the same time, it will improve the health and strength of the patient. On some occasions, this acid may be given in conjunction with a course of mercurial inunction; and it will be found to support the tone of the stomach; to promote the appetite; to determine powerfully to the kidneys, and to counteract in no inconsiderable degree the effects of Mercury on the mouth and fauces. These advantages are by no means unimportant; and certainly entitle the gentlemen who have been active in promoting the introduction of this acid into general practice, to the gratitude of the public.

I will not presume, however, to assert, that we have yet learnt all that can be known, of the best mode of exhibiting this medicine; nor will

will I suppose that we have arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of its virtues. Yet, in the present state of our information upon this subject, it would by no means be warrantable to substitute the Nitrous Acid in the place of Mercury, for the cure of venereal complaints; nor to permit the knowledge we have gained respecting some useful properties of the former, to seduce us to reject what a long course of experience has taught us of the certain efficacy of the latter.

THE END.

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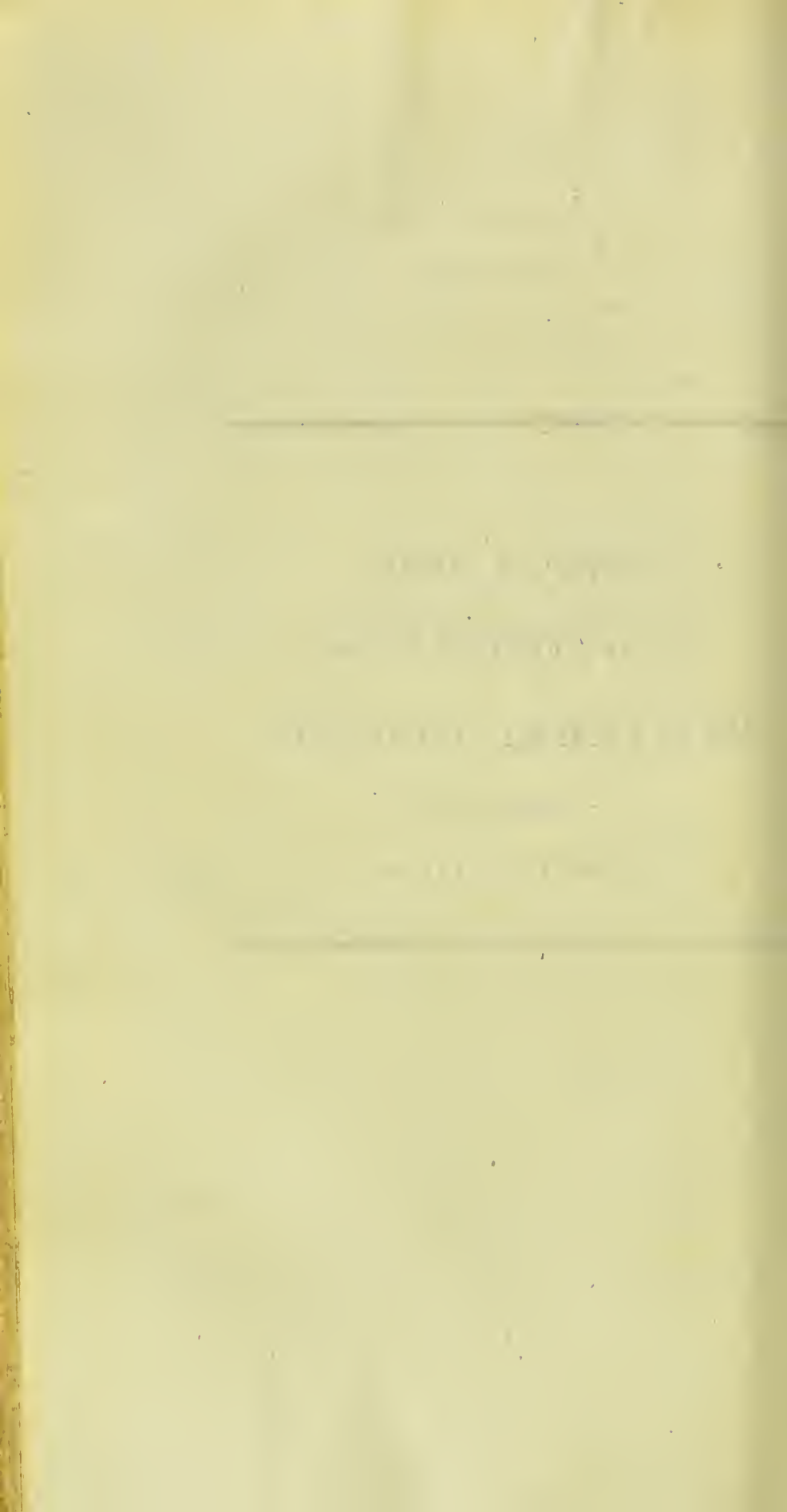
PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON CANCEROUS COMPLAINTS:

With an Account of some Diseases which have been
confounded with the Cancer.

Also, Critical Remarks on some of the Operations
performed in Cancerous Cases.

A
POPULAR VIEW
OF THE EFFECTS OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE
UPON THE
CONSTITUTION.



A
POPULAR VIEW
OF THE
E F F E C T S
OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE
UPON THE
CONSTITUTION:

COLLECTED FROM THE BEST WRITERS.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,
MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS,
BY A PHYSICIAN.

—Dira lues,—qua sævior usquam
Nulla fuit, nulla unquam aliis spectabitur annis.
FRACASTORIUS.

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POPULAR VIEW

OF THE EFFECTS OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

PART FIRST.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It has often appeared surprising, that no attempts have been made to shew mankind in general, the pernicious consequences of venereal complaints. The books written upon these subjects, have been meant entirely for medical

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men,

men, and are so involved in medical phrases as to be nearly unintelligible to all others.

Writing popular books upon medical subjects, is generally not reputable. It is seldom practised by men of learning and candour, and it does harm. All attempts to make the world at large understand the causes or cure of diseases, are vain. They promote quackery, and destroy health.

But attempts to shew the miseries and the consequences of diseases that may be avoided, are highly laudable; and there is no disease that requires such attempts more than the venereal. The varieties of misery with which it is attended, the weaknesses and the disorders.

orders of which it lays the foundation, are innumerable. Yet they are, in a great measure, unknown, except to those who have suffered them; and even the sufferers are not always aware of the cause of their sufferings. The variety in the time and in the mode of attack which there is in the remains of venereal complaints, their not having arisen directly out of any venereal symptom, and the persons having been assured by practitioners that they were perfectly well, are reasons why they seldom ascribe their disorder to its true cause.

There are many reasons why the great and frequently irreparable mischief done by the venereal disease, should not be generally known.

Delicacy excludes it from the topics of general conversation. Those who are affected with it, seldom converse upon it, except with their fellow-sufferers. Supposing that their sufferings would not excite much compassion, or fearing that the knowledge of them might injure their future prospects, they mostly conceal them. If they find their complaints durable, they are often more anxious not to be disgraced by them, and often they become more credulous with regard to pretended remedies.

Hence arises another source of deception. The truth is not only concealed, but denied. It is confidently asserted by low or interested practitioners, that the venereal disease is trifling.

trifling, and may be easily cured, without leaving any injury to the constitution. A more false assertion was never made. This disease in the mildest form, and when cured in the happiest manner, is apt to leave consequences, whether known to the patient or not, which time may diminish, but which frequently terminate only with life.

A clap, if it does no other injury, leaves a weakness of the organs of urine and generation. A pox leaves a general weakness and relaxation, and the sufferer cannot be absolutely certain that he will continue free from it. In short, it may be laid down as a general maxim, from which there are not many exceptions, that a

person who has had a venereal complaint, never is entirely what he was. He may escape any particular bad consequences, he may be free from pain, and competent to the ordinary offices of life, but he has not the high health and vigour he once enjoyed. In the generality of venereal complaints, this is the fact ; and to this it must be added, that a considerable proportion of the cases are much worse. They are often so bad that humanity shudders at the view, and so hopeless that medicine can promise no cure, and scarcely any relief. Even where there is no defect of skill or care in the practitioner, and no unruliness in the patient, it sometimes happens that a constitutional taint or a mere accident shall frustrate all our art,

art, and leave him the dreary prospect of spending the remainder of his life disabled or pained in some material part, or infirm in his whole frame. From the cases I have seen, I should conjecture, that nearly three in ten of those who have venereal complaints, and are well treated, are materially and durably worse; and that nearly one in ten suffers very considerably through life. There can indeed be no general rule, for the proportion must vary at different times, and in different situations; but I take this to be the average. I have sometimes seen great numbers recover without any unfortunate occurrence, but at other times I have seen a large proportion suffer exceedingly. Nor let ignorance or quackery say that there

was some defect in the treatment: It was such as the best places in the island afforded, and better than can, in many situations, be expected; and it can be subjected to no general censure, for it was conducted by men eminent in their profession, but very different in their education and modes of practice.

We must add, that when the lower classes, who are a great majority of mankind, contract venereal complaints, their sufferings, and the proportion of unfortunate terminations, are often much greater. They have not, in general, a knowledge of the best mode of applying for relief, or of using the means of it properly when obtained. Falling into the hands of ignorant or designing

designing men, possessing little regularity or cleanliness, living in bad air and being obliged to labour, their complaints fare much worse. They frequently fall sacrifices to their imprudence, or live spectacles of infamy, or spread loathsomeness in their families. The diseased and miserable objects which everywhere abound, are inconceivable, except to those who have been much amongst them. Could we display the deformity, filth, and rottenness, which pervade the houses of the unchaste poor,—could we give an adequate idea of their sufferings,—could we tell how many are cut off at an early period by venereal complaints, or by disorders of which they have laid the foundation,—the most voluptuous would receive at least a temporary

temporary check, and the most intrepid would stand aghast.

We guard most sedulously against the plague, and often use precautions which have been thought rather unnecessary ; but this far more dreadful plague is suffered to creep into families, and to pollute whole houses, and often successive generations. The species of fever called plague creates great alarm, because of the numbers who die suddenly about the same time, and who are seen and known to die of it ; but it appears only at certain times and in certain situations, and in this country it might be guarded against and kept under : whereas the venereal disease, at all times and in all situations, invisibly and gradually steals in-

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to the persons and families of those who expose themselves to it, and far greater numbers suffer from it in some form or other, or from some weakness or disease of which it lays the foundation, than would suffer from the plague, were it to visit us as often as it does the countries that are most subject to it.

This is a striking and undeniable fact. To make it appear, we must consider the immense numbers of prostitutes that infest the metropolis, and all the large, and many of the smaller towns, besides many other places. They are a kind of reservoir of the venereal disease. They are all sometimes afflicted with it, and many labour under it almost constantly. It
may

may always be found amongst them in great abundance, and in all its forms, stages, and varieties.—We must consider the great proportion of men, particularly in the army and navy, who very generally labour under this disease, and who, from their way of life, are both more liable to contract it, and to suffer from it.—We must consider the immense numbers of young men, and indeed men of all ages, that contract this disease; the proportion of them in whom, through neglect, improper treatment, or some peculiarity of constitution, it degenerates into lasting complaints.—We must next consider the numbers of modest women who are diseased by their husbands; many of whom, from delicacy, will either not mention their disease, or not suffer it to be examined, and

and therefore cannot always have it properly treated, and sometimes not entirely removed.—We must finally consider the numbers of families in which there is a scrofulous taint, and in which, on this account, venereal complaints are much more obstinate, and often not perfectly curable.

To all these we must add, the infinite numbers of children which are produced by diseased parents, of each of the above classes, either when labouring under the disease, or in a state of disorder or weakness consequent upon it. Many children are born with the venereal disease, and many are born weak and puny through the weakness that was brought upon their parents by it. The higher classes of people are not always exempt from charges

ges of this kind, and the lower classes are most notoriously obnoxious to them. A great majority of the children in the workhouses of large towns are in this state.

Much has been said of the degeneracy of the present race of men, compared with former ages. There does not seem to be so much truth in it as many have asserted, but there is some ; and for the truth that there is in it, there must be some cause. To ascribe this degeneracy altogether to the effects of one disease, would not be rational ; other diseases, and many of our modes of life, doubtless contribute to it ; but the venereal disease has a very large share in it. The proportion of children, especially in the metropolis

tropolis and great towns, and indeed in many other places, who suffer from some form or consequence of the venereal disease in their parents or progenitors, is much larger than the world has ever imagined. The extent of their sufferings is also much greater.

The popular notion, that venereal complaints are local and temporary, is true of them only when they are incipient, and when they are early and well treated, and with a success which we cannot always command. The latter stages and the more obstinate remains we may perhaps subdue, but we cannot restore to the body its pristine health and vigour. A blasted tree remains a long time sickly, and seldom continues to be of the same growth

growth with the surrounding trees of the same species. A similar law obtains in the animal creation. And in the human race it is generally found, that diminution and degeneracy of form are attended with infirmity of body and imbecility of mind. Parents in general produce children like themselves, subject to similar infirmities and diseases, possessed of similar abilities and dispositions. Supposing the children of diseased parents, or of parents who are sickly through disease, to be themselves sufferers from the same disease, (which often happens), their constitutions must be still more injured, and these injuries may be continued and increased through successive generations.

In

In order, then, to take a proper view of the mischiefs done by the venereal disease, we must (besides considering the pains and dangers with which it is attended, during its continuance, or during any method of cure) consider it as one of the chief causes which debilitate the human frame. We must consider that debility will propagate itself, and that, in passing from one generation to another, it will probably be increased by the application of the same causes. And we should especially consider, that debility of body is nothing to the debility of mind which it induces. Feebleness of body may be borne, by temperance it may be remedied, and by time and patience it may become scarcely perceptible, but feebleness of

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mind frustrates all our hopes. To do the business, or to enjoy the pleasures of life, capacity and vigour are requisite. Feeble-minded men rather exist than live. The prospects of life are open before them in vain. Spectators only of the enterprizes, the successes, and the enjoyments of others, they are incapable of exerting, and therefore of advancing themselves. With the provision which is made for them, they must in general be content, and they must see wealth, honour, and pleasure, snatched from before them,

There are persons who in the ardour of passion would forego almost any advantages for themselves, but those who can think with indifference of such prospects for their children, must
be

be abandoned indeed ! Of such gloomy prospects it is to be hoped, that few who rush into vice have thought or known ; and it is the more incumbent upon those who know the immediate and remote, the probable and the possible consequences of venereal complaints, to point them out.

Viewing matters in this light, it is astonishing that no person has pointed out to the young, the ignorant and unwary, the precipice upon which they stand ; the bad consequences that must, and the fatal consequences that may follow impure coition,—that no person has written expressly and explicitly upon the subject. The paragraphs to this purpose, scattered in professional books, and often enveloped

in medical phrases, cannot be of use to those who need them most.

It is still more astonishing, that the deception of representing venereal complaints as trifling, and easily and infallibly curable, should have passed unnoticed. That it should have been practised by the vain and the interested, is supposable ; but that none of the profession should have had the candour, the superiority to sordid views, and the true benevolence, publicly and plainly to confess, that some injury to the constitution generally remains after venereal complaints, and that in many cases they baffle all our skill,—that none should have avowed this, is very surprising. Many must have been sensible of it, and have known that to
publish

publish it would be one of the greatest benefits to their fellow creatures. Some morose religionists have appeared to treat the unhappy sufferers from venereal complaints as unworthy of reformation, and to treat even those who were in danger of falling into similar situations as unworthy of being prevented. The venereal disease; it seems, was too gross to be shewn in all its horrors, or even to be named. Were such antagonists worthy of a reply, I should say, That if they mean to be Christians, they must be disciples of Him who "came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." I cannot suppose, that such ideas have influenced the liberal part of the profession to neglect to rescue their fel-

low creatures from the jaws of destruction.

The indolence of human nature, the delicacy and difficulty of the undertaking, may perhaps account for this neglect.

To attempt to convey medical knowledge in popular language, is both delicate and difficult. It is delicate, because such attempts are seldom made by regular men, and are generally made under pretence of teaching people what they can never learn, the causes and cure of diseases. It is difficult, because medical knowledge is expressed in medical terms, for many of which there are no synonymous words, and requires a previous acquaintance

quaintance with other branches of science, which are seldom studied but by medical men.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, as the object is great, the attainment of it must be attempted ; and it is hoped that the attempt, made solely from benevolent motives, will be viewed with candour. By those who wish well to the best interests of society, it will ; and from such as have selfish purposes to serve, the author has neither hopes nor fears.

When forming the plan of this work, the greatest difficulty that occurred was to give it sufficient influence while it remained anonymous. A writer who does not give his name

may demand attention for the reasoning he adduces, but he cannot expect credit for the facts he relates ; and the opinions here advanced require great support from facts. In this dilemma, the only resource appeared to be giving the conclusions of established authors, under their own names, and in their own words ; making only such alterations as might render them more intelligible to the world at large. Nor did this seem to be making too free with their works, or rendering them less valuable to professional men. Neither their theories nor methods of cure are borrowed. Convinced that all ideas of giving the diseased any proper medical views of their complaints, or of putting them upon treating themselves, are chimerical and hurtful, the

compiler

compiler is at the greatest distance from any such attempt. On the contrary, he would strenuously advise all who labour under any complaint, and especially under one so subtle and insidious as the venereal, to procure immediately the best assistance, and to follow implicitly the directions that are given them.

The authors that are quoted are left in the undisturbed possession of their own speculative opinions, and of their various modes of practice. Their general accounts of the symptoms, extent, and duration of the disease, are the only parts that are made use of. Their names are mentioned and their words given, to add weight to their conclusions, and credibility to their facts.

facts. To make extracts is always allowable ; and under these restrictions, and with these views, it is rendering homage to the authors rather than robbing them.

The compiler must premise, that he does not make himself responsible for every physiological or theoretical opinion that may be incidentally quoted. They are the opinions of respectable authors, and he has given them as he found them. The general truth of the practical conclusions is indisputable, and this is sufficient for the purpose of a work like the following. He must also premise, that in substituting familiar words for foreign or technical terms, it was impossible always to find such as were equally proper ; but
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they are sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes, and it was his first duty to be intelligible.

He could easily have collected very numerous testimonies to the same purpose from many other writers, but they would have increased the work without adding to the information. These are collected from the best writers. They are sufficient for every person open to conviction; and for those who are determined to take their course, in spite of all remonstrances, none would have sufficed.

The public is now possessed of a clear and popular representation of the consequences of venereal complaints. Those who are influenced to preserve
their

their chastity by no higher motives, may be influenced by the fear of exquisite pain and lasting injury. It is the duty of every well-wisher to Society, to display all kinds of motives to virtue, and dissuatives from vice. We know not which may influence. There are many who can be influenced by none but such as are here presented. There are some who profess to disbelieve Christianity. There are more who, led by education, connections, and habits, disregard its precepts. These cannot, in general, be supposed to abstain from promiscuous amours, except from a fear of injury to their constitutions. To say, that we ought not to deter them by motives of so fordid a nature, is to counteract the plan of Providence, which
has

has uniformly annexed misery to vice, —seeming to say, that those who will learn wisdom by no other means, shall learn it by what they suffer.

The young frequently abridge their lives, or destroy all their pleasures, by venereal maladies, before they can be proper judges of right and wrong. At this period, the fear of present and personal injury may have more influence than higher motives.

To preserve or to restore the purity of characters by this consideration may be useful at first, and may render them susceptible of better principles. Were we even so illiberal and malevolent as to think the unchaste beneath our attention on their own account, we must

must think it right to give them every possible warning on account of the innocent who suffer through them. In short, it is, on every account, highly important to give a clear and full view of the effects of the venereal disease. This view may be the chief preservative of some, and it may be one amongst the more laudable preservatives of others. Some men are at all periods, and all men are at some periods of their lives, in danger of running into folly and vice; and if, by just representations of their fatal effects, we can stop their progress, we shall do great service to society, and we know not to what enjoyments or to what improvements we may contribute.

Incidental

Incidental remarks or practical conclusions drawn by men of different professions and pursuits from the subjects which they have occasion to treat, have a much better effect than general persuasives to virtue or dissuasives from vice. General reasonings are not intelligible to all, and they frequently do not appear to be applicable to particular cases. The avowal of a moral purpose often defeats its end. Of him who esteems himself wise enough to instruct, and good enough to reform us, we are sometimes suspicious ; and against his arguments we are generally on our guard. We expect some colouring. We suppose, that, *ex officio*, he will make the most of his cause, and consequently that he may be liable to advance some assertions which have
been

been contradicted, and some arguments which he does not think the strongest. He who gives general admonitions must descant upon many subjects, all of which it cannot have been his province to study ; he must therefore be chargeable with inaccuracies which will diminish his authority and his usefulness. If to these deductions we add, that whoever openly and directly contends with passion, prejudice, and habit, contends with the greatest obstacles to improvement, we shall see why moral writers have so little influence, and why more may be expected from those who only draw fair inferences from the subjects which they scientifically treat.

For

For these reasons I would strenuously recommend the following extracts to parents, guardians, and to the friends of youth in general. They are taken from writers of great ability and experience ; they are such as the subjects naturally suggested, when their authors had probably no moral purpose in view.

It is necessary to caution the friends of youth against an affected delicacy, and a studious concealment of every circumstance that has the least relation to the pleasures of the senses. When young men approach to manhood, tell them plainly and fairly what pleasures they may enjoy, and what will be the consequence of illicit indulgencies. You cannot suppose, that
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by affecting ignorance of pleasures which you are known to have enjoyed, you will keep your sons ignorant. A veil of darkness and mystery will only excite greater curiosity, which, co-operating with passion, then extremely strong, will lead them to vice. False delicacy and affected ignorance will make them hypocritical, but not virtuous. Fathers are often the only persons who do not know the vices of their sons, and who therefore can have no chance to reclaim them. Being advanced in life, having felt in themselves, and seen in others the propensities of youth, parents should consider that such propensities are inseparable from it; and that, unless they are powerfully counteracted, they will prove fatal to virtue. Fathers should
converse

converse candidly and familiarly with their sons, upon the dangers they have escaped, or the errors into which they have fallen, the diseases and miseries which have overtaken themselves or their companions, the great probability that disease will ever attend unchastity, that it may not be perfectly removed, and that it will leave debility and unfitness for the offices and enjoyments of life. In short, they ought to give all the information which true delicacy would permit, and which their experience and observation could suggest.

Magnanimity will confess past faults, and good sense will perceive, that to own past errors is a proof of increasing knowledge. But supposing that

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mistaken ideas of dignity in the parental relation should prevent fathers from making an honest confession of their youthful follies, their knowledge of the world must furnish them with many facts which they might relate to great advantage. If they would put themselves upon a more familiar footing with their sons, they might often prevent the loss of health, virtue, and happiness. Youth is extremely sensible of candour and kindness, and ardent in its friendship. Were young men treated less like children, and more like friends and companions, they would, in many instances, from attachment and affection, confide in the experience and observation of their fathers till they came to years of discretion. They would not be so apt to form

form dissolute acquaintance, or to fancy, that in such society alone they could acquire a knowledge, or form a relish of pleasure. Their curiosity would abate if they were accustomed to converse freely with men advanced in life and knowledge, upon the nature of unchastity; and their fears would increase if they were plainly and fully told its consequences. There is nothing in the following pages which they ought not to know. By materials such as these, of which the world furnishes great abundance, their minds might be fortified, and their passions interested in the preservation of their health and virtue. If they had some knowledge of this kind given them before they enter places of education, (where impurity often takes deep root,

and does irreparable mischief), it would be far more useful than many things which they learn.

By vicious men, by interested practitioners, and by a few who have fortunately escaped any bad consequences; it will be said, that the following cases are some of the worst, and that the observations exceed the bounds of nature and truth. This I not only deny; but I can appeal to the best authorities, which will support me in having presented a fair view of the general effects of venereal complaints. I could have adduced worse cases, and stronger assertions; but I wished to collect such as would neither inspire delusive hope, nor excite unreasonable fear. Impartial men who have for
years

years, had a large acquaintance and known their sufferings, and candid practitioners of much experience, will not think that I have overcharged the picture. Believing it to be faithful, and wishing it to be useful, I present it to the public.

Upon persons whose habits are formed, I have little hope of making much impression. Some parts they will attempt to answer, and what they cannot answer they will condemn. Passion strengthened by indulgence, minds filled with prejudice, enfeebled and enslaved by vice, can neither discern the light of reason, nor feel the force of truth. But to the rising generation these extracts cannot fail to be of service, if they be properly considered.

Few truths that are fairly presented to young minds are wholly lost. For a while they may be forgotten, or their influence may be counteracted; but, like seeds sown before the storms of winter, they will spring up in due season. What fruit they may bear, will depend much upon the soil, the culture, and the climate; but that they will vegetate is certain.

I would not digress; but I cannot omit two observations, which, though they do not arise directly out of the subject, are yet connected with it, and which, if they were duly weighed, would produce a very great effect.

The first is, That unchastity does not answer the end proposed. This

end is the satisfaction of a strong and painful passion, and the procuring a high degree of pleasure. The passion is indeed gratified for a time, but it soon returns, and with increased violence. We all know, that no passion can be governed by being gratified, but that, on the contrary, it is rendered more headstrong and tormenting. Can we conceive a more miserable situation than that of a man who has suffered any of the principal passions to gain an entire ascendancy over him? He is the slave of an arbitrary, cruel, and capricious tyrant. If health, circumstances, conscience, and reputation, were not injured by the indulgence of the passion in question, a wise man would rather chuse to subdue it, in order to secure true satisfaction and tranquillity

tranquillity of mind. The intervals between its gratifications must be tedious and uncertain. If procuring pleasure be the chief object, the impatience, anxiety, and disappointment, attending it, are more than it is worth. But, on the contrary, passion, if it be resisted, may soon be subdued. Like all bullies, it is the most violent where it is least opposed. Many vigorous young men who have resisted the venereal appetite, have found it much more manageable than they at first supposed. In a short time they have not only found little molestation from it, but felt increasing strength, cheerfulness, and activity. We have much more power over the constitution, in this and many other respects, than we are aware of. This passion, though by far
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the strongest in our nature, may be made to lie dormant with greater ease, and with more true and durable pleasure, than it can be when promiscuously gratified.

The second observation is, That the irregular and promiscuous indulgences of the venereal appetite in youth, has a tendency to unfit the person for the duties and enjoyments of the married state. This appetite seems, in general, to have a certain degree of power, which, if it be once exhausted, can never be restored. It does not keep pace with returning health, nor even with a desire of pleasure. It is a tender plant, which arrives at maturity late and decays early. If it be nipped in the bud, it may never arrive

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at maturity ; and if it be made to bear fruit oftener than nature intended, it will wither and die. There may be exceptions, but this is the general law, and it will obtain even where the person is not injured by disease.

But taking the world as it is, we know, that a man cannot long have promiscuous connections with women without contracting the venereal disease. He may escape it for a time, but he cannot escape it always, and what mischief it may do him he does not know. It may fall upon the organs of generation, in such a manner as to disable them for ever. Though we can promise to destroy its virulence, we cannot promise to restore the functions of the part. A loss of substance,
or

or a change of organization, or a permanent weakness may remain. But supposing that none of these effects remain, the general effects of venereal complaints, and of promiscuous coition, are greatly and durably injurious. The sufferer may not for some time be sensible of their effects, perhaps not whilst he continues in a single state. The remains of the venereal appetite, when accumulated by solitude and increasing prudence, may persuade him that he possesses all his pristine vigour; but they persuade him falsely. When he becomes subject to the more constant demands which nature has annexed to the married state, he cannot answer them. The miseries of such a situation may be better conceived than they can be described. If a man make
greater

greater exertions than he can bear, his health and spirits will be undermined, and suffer exceedingly. Few sufferings are more exquisite than those which arise from an overstrained venereal appetite. They are anomalous and difficult to be described. Their chief characteristic is, that they are seated in the stomach, and accompanied with those various and miserable sensations which accompany stomach-complaints. They not only prevent a person from being happy in himself, but from endeavouring to make others happy. It is well known, that when the body is tortured by such complaints as these, the mind is also affected, and rendered irritable, peevish, and fretful. We charge many qualities and actions upon the mind, which we ought to charge upon

upon the body. It often happens, that men who in their youth were good tempered and cheerful, if they were debauched, become, when they have been some time married, morose and unpleasant. In these cases, we can, in general, have little doubt in ascribing the change partly to the injury which their constitution has received, and partly to their consequent unfitness for the married state.

It will be supposed, that effects so destructive of health and enjoyment, must abridge the term of life; and it is a fact, that many men lay the foundation of an untimely death by early or excessive venery, and finish the superstructure by that moderate application to the pleasures of the marriage bed,

bed, which would be safe, and even beneficial, if they had not formerly been unchaste.

The knowledge of this fact suggests two important considerations:—How far it ought to influence young men in their conduct,—and young women in forming matrimonial connections. But to return :

When men who have lived debauched lives do not spend their remaining strength, and do not satisfy the desires of their partners in the married state, they are apt to suspect that they are not much esteemed, perhaps that they are despised. Hence their minds become irritated, mutual complacency and domestic happiness are diminished

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ed or destroyed. Sometimes even jealousy takes place, and then

“ Suspicion and distrust the passion sway,

“ And bend all nature that uneasy way.”

Whether these suspicions be true or not, the wives of such men have certainly great reason for dissatisfaction and complaint. The most modest and virtuous woman ought not to be ashamed to own, that one motive to matrimony was that the desires which nature had implanted in her might be satisfied. If she be disappointed, we cannot wonder that she should think herself ill-treated, and that she should sometimes lose her temper. If she have received a bad education, and have strong passions, we can scarcely wonder if she should transgress the bounds of virtue.

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To the risk of such calamities are they exposed who have addicted themselves to unchastity.

Where men will not learn wisdom from these considerations, they will learn from no instructor but experience.

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A

POPULAR VIEW
OF THE EFFECTS OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

PART SECOND.

GONORRHÆA, OR CLAP.

SECTION I.

Preliminary Observations.

THIS disease, when it appears in the form either of a gonorrhæa or a chancre, differs very much in the violence of its symptoms in different people.

In some it is extremely mild, in others extremely violent. This does not arise from any variety in the poison.

HUNTER*.

It ought always to be kept in view, that however mild the symptoms may be at first, they may very quickly and unexpectedly become severe. BELL†.

SECTION II.

General Symptoms—Event.

A GONORRHÆA or Clap is a discharge of matter from the urethra, (the passage that conveys the urine from the bladder). For the most part, this

* Treatise on the Venereal Disease, by JOHN HUNTER.

† Treatise on Gonorrhœa Virulenta and Lues Venerea, by BENJAMIN BELL.

this discharge is preceded by symptoms indicating some degree of inflammation in the passage. A sense of fulness and tightness is felt over all the under part of the penis; the patient has a more frequent desire than usual to void urine, accompanied with a peculiar kind of itching heat along the passage, the extremity of which is more than usually tender to the touch. In some cases the passage seems to be lessened, the urine coming off in a stream much smaller than natural; while in other cases it is forked, as if the passage was divided in two.

On the running appearing, it is sometimes white, but for the most part it is of a yellow green colour. In some cases it is brown, resembling the

discharge of old scorbutic fores, and in others it consists almost entirely of blood, owing to the erosion or rupture of one or more blood-vessels.

In a great proportion of cases, the discharge of matter and scalding heat in making water, are the only symptoms which take place ; but in others, these are accompanied with chordee or painful involuntary erections, with much uneasiness in the testicles, which frequently become so tender and irritable that the slightest touch excites pain. Severe degrees of pain often stretch to the groins and thighs, and in some cases over all the bowels, particularly over the under part of the belly.

In

In some cases the involuntary erections, and in others these pains stretching to the groins and contiguous parts, are the most distressful symptoms of the disease. I have known the latter so severe as to render the patient altogether unable to take any kind of exercise; while the painful erection, which is usually worst in bed, is apt to deprive him entirely of sleep.

Besides these pains, the glands in the groin in some instances swell and become hard.

The end of the penis sometimes becomes red and inflamed, and a yellow offensive matter oozes from its whole surface. In some cases this is accompanied with evident ulceration.

In a few cases the disease spreads backward till it extends over the whole length of the urethra, and even to the bladder itself. The higher parts of the passage, and the internal coat of the bladder become affected, and pains stretch from these parts to the kidneys.

In some instances, the heat of urine is so severe as to prove highly distressful.

In the latter stages of gonorrhœa, along with heat of urine and the other ordinary symptoms of the disease, the patient complains of severe fixed pain in the parts contiguous to the anus, accompanied with a sensation of fulness and tension. The desire to void urine
is

is frequent, and it is passed with much pain and difficulty, often drop by drop.

Persons, in every stage of a clap, are liable to a painful involuntary erection of the penis. It happens at all times of the day, but most frequently when the patient is warm in bed, when it is, in some instances, so severe, as to deprive him entirely of rest.

BELL.

There is not always a happy issue of a clap. The continuance of the inflammation, from wrong treatment, from intemperate habits, from natural dispositions in the constitution, will often fix more lasting injuries, which will remain destructive of all comforts,

forts, and dangerous to existence, after the disease that created them has been for a long time at an end. Such injuries will naturally be expected, and such varieties of them are naturally to be experienced. They become intricate and obscure, because they are out of all ocular reach; and they are various, from the variety of the parts which are exposed to inflammation.

Foot*.

SECTION III.

Diseases of the Urethra.

THE most frequent disease in the urinary passage, is an obstruction to the flow of urine. It happens both in young

* Observations on the Venereal Disease, by JESSE FOOT.

young and old, although most frequently in the latter. HUNTER.

A most common cause of obstructions in the urethra, is inflammation from a clap. A gentleman had an obstruction of the urethra which arose from a clap that he had had at least ten years before. It proved fatal. FOOT.

Mr FOOT gives twenty-five cases, the greater part of which are in many respects similar. EDITOR.

The worst stage of a clap consists in the inflammation of the membrane of the urinary passage, of the glands within it, and of the neck of the bladder, being so very powerful as to produce a stopping of the discharge. When

When this is the case, there is in general great heat along the passage, a constant propensity to make water, a dull continual uneasy sensation, near or in the seat. The patient at this time cannot bear to sit down, nor scarcely turn in his bed; and when he moves, he walks with his legs straddled. Throughout the whole symptoms of the venereal disease, I do not know a more critical situation than the patient is in, thus circumstanced; for whatever lasting injury is done to those parts, it is often entailing continual disease, which baffles our power totally to remove for ever after.

Foot.

The irritation produced in the urinary passage by gonorrhœa, is in some cases

cases so great as to excite contraction of the passage in a very distressful degree. I have known the urine so completely obstructed by this alone, as to give cause to suspect that strictures were formed of the most alarming nature; in which no instrument could be introduced, but with more force than can ever with safety be applied.

BELL.

There are often spasmodic contractions in different parts of the canal, shutting up the passage and obstructing the course of the urine, often not allowing a drop to pass.

In opposition to this disease, there is the want of power of contraction (or palsy) of the urethra; but this is not
so

so frequent a case as the former. This affection is attended with symptoms contrary to the foregoing; the bladder is hardly allowed to be filled, but the water dribbles away insensibly; or if the bladder is filled, expulsion immediately takes place. Sometimes in such cases the water will flow whether the person will or not, there being little or no power of retention.

HUNTER.

Obstruction to the passage of urine has long been considered as one of the most distressful, as it is one of the most frequent consequences of clap.

BELL.

In cases of a long continued running, the skin that lines the urinary passage

passage is apt to be so relaxed that fungous excrescences form in different parts of it. These not only impede the passage of the urine, but, becoming soft and tender, they at last ulcerate and throw out very considerable quantities of matter. This may sometimes proceed from a constitutional affection; and therefore prove very obstinate, notwithstanding the skill of the practitioner, and the care of the patient.

BELL.

Instances often occur of the inflammation passing along the whole course of the urinary passage, and fixing in the most violent manner upon the prostate gland or bladder.

BELL.

From

From swellings in the urinary passage and contiguous parts, (which are by no means infrequently the consequence of a clap), distress always occurs. Where they burst or must be opened, the sores in some instances heal with difficulty, while in others the matter bursts into the passage, where it continues often during the life of the patient to excite a great deal of distress.

In others again, it bursts into the scrotum, (the loose skin covering the testicles), and from thence into the surrounding parts, and openings forming in consequence of this, commonly between the scrotum and seat, a very troublesome disease is produced. Among other consequences which sometimes

times occur from matter bursting from abscesses in this situation into the contiguous parts, it is proper to mention, that the most distressful effects occur from its finding access to the parts within the body of the penis. It usually spreads suddenly over the whole substance of the penis ; small openings take place in different parts of the swelling, at which the matter is discharged, and these are always very difficult to heal ; or, if the matter does not find a vent in this manner, it either bursts into the passage, or the surrounding parts are apt to mortify.

When mortification occurs in this situation, it either soon proves fatal, or terminates in the entire loss of the penis ; for a stop is seldom put to the

disease till all the surrounding parts are destroyed, when amputation of the remainder becomes unavoidable.

BELL.



SECTION IV.

Strictures.

STRICTURES are frequently the consequence of gonorrhæa, and when they arrive at such a height as to impede the flow of urine, they prove always the cause of distress and misery to the patient. By long continuance they become much more firm and more difficult to cure.

BELL.

Strictures (or contractions of the urinary passage) are never found to
come

come on during the venereal inflammation, nor for some time after the infection is gone. *There have been thirty, and sometimes forty years between the cure of a clap and the beginning of a stricture, the health being all that time perfectly good.*

HUNTER.

A person who in his youth has suffered much from clap, is very liable to be attacked about the sixtieth year of his age, or upwards, with strictures in the urinary passage, which are sometimes exceedingly troublesome and obstinate.

BELL.

Strictures almost constantly produce diseases in the parts beyond them; runnings, inflammation, and ulceration. The bladder is often affected,

and in some cases the kidneys themselves. HUNTER.

SECTION V.

Gleets.

THESE are runnings without inflammation. They are by no means infrequent, and they are often extremely obstinate. Innumerable testimonies, both to their frequency and obstinacy, might be produced. The following may suffice. EDITOR.

I was consulted by a Nobleman concerning a gleet, with which he had been affected for about *ten years*, and for which he had consulted the physicians and surgeons in several countries. SCHWEDIAUER.

SECTION VI.

Diseases of the Bladder.

IN some cases, the bladder becomes affected almost on the first attack of the disease. The patient complains of much uneasiness, which at last terminates in severe pain over all the region of the bladder, particularly about the neck of it, accompanied with a frequent and painful desire to make water, and often with a painful desire to go to stool. Cases of this kind have been mistaken for stone in the bladder.

After these affections, some degree of uneasiness, and certain deranged

sensations, will often continue for a number of years. The bladder is apt to become much thickened and lessened; hence, even after all the other symptoms are gone, the frequent inclination to pass urine continues. In some cases this goes on for years; nay, I have known it endure for a great length of time, *and only terminate with the life of the patient.*

BELL.

When the bladder becomes in this manner diseased, the state of the patient is, for the most part, *extremely miserable*; he feels almost a constant desire to make water, accompanied with severe pressure or bearing down upon the affected parts. The whole region of the loins, particularly about the kidneys, becomes so painful, that

much distress is excited by whatever tends to bring the muscles of these parts into action, and the patient often complains of a constant inclination to go to stool, and of a frequent shooting pain about the seat and neck of the bladder.

It may be remarked, that this stage of the complaint seems to proceed from the nature of the infection being more than usually virulent, or from peculiarity of constitution, and that the best treatment cannot always prevent it.

BELL.

When the bladder is affected, very disagreeable symptoms are often produced: it will not allow the usual distension, and therefore the patient can-

not retain his water the ordinary time, and the moment the desire of making water takes place, he is obliged to make it, with violent pain in the bladder, and still more at the end of the penis, exactly similar to what happens in a fit of the stone. If the bladder be not allowed to discharge its contents immediately, the pain becomes *almost intolerable*; and even when the water is evacuated, there remains for some time a considerable pain.

HUNTER.

SECTION VII.

Swelling of the Testicles.

A VERY common symptom attending a clap is a swelling of the testicles.

It

It is accompanied with considerable pain in the small of the back, and a weakness of the loins. The bowels generally sympathize with most complaints of the testicle; in some by cholicky pains, in others by an uncommon sensation both in the stomach and intestines: sickness is a common symptom, and even vomiting; the powers of digestion by this means are impaired, and a disposition for the accumulation of air takes place, which is often very troublesome.

This inflammation of the testicle most probably arises from its sympathizing with the urinary passage, and in many cases it would appear to arise from what is understood by a translocation of the irritation. Thus a swelling

ling of the testicle shall remove the pain in making water and stop the discharge. I have nevertheless known cases where the testicle has swelled, and yet the discharge become more violent ; nay, I have known instances where a swelling has come on after the discharge had ceased, yet the discharge has returned with violence, and remained as long as the swelling of the testicle. A difficulty of making water, attended with a continual involuntary dripping, often accompanies these cases.

HUNTER.

When a clap has either been improperly treated, or when much inflammation takes place from any other cause, the testicles are apt to swell and inflame ; and abscesses often form in
certain

certain glands, as well as in other parts of the urinary passage. - When these burst outwardly, or when the urine by any means finds access to them, they are often productive of great distress to the patient and perplexity to the practitioner, as they frequently baffle every attempt that is made for removing them. BELL.

A swelling of one of the testicles is a very frequent occurrence in clap. In some instances both swell. The swelling on leaving one, is very apt to go to the other; and when both have in this manner been affected, they sometimes swell alternately for a considerable time together. I have known this happen for the space of a year and upwards, where the patient, during the whole

whole period, was never completely free of the disease.

The first attack is always accompanied with severe pain. It begins with a painful sensation in one of the testicles, striking near to the middle of the back. The testicle is swelled, and so tender that the patient can scarcely bear it to be touched. He feels himself hot, and a general uneasiness prevails over his whole body, particularly over his thighs and belly. Neither can he move without increasing the violence of every symptom. In the progress of the disease, even the testicle itself becomes hard; and if the means employed for preventing it, do not prove successful, the swelling becomes of considerable magnitude, accompanied

accompanied with a red inflammatory affection of the scrotum.

In this state of the disease *the pain is often intense*, accompanied with a very distressful sensation of the testicle moving or rolling about. The skin is dry and parched, the tongue foul, thirst prevails, and the pulse is full and quick.

There is no period of clap in which this affection does not occasionally come on. It occurs in all stages of the disease; even towards the end of it, when both the patient and surgeon are apt to consider the cure as nearly complete: And in some we find it takes place where no cause can be assigned for it, where neither the degree of the
previous

previous inflammation, nor the mode of life of the patient, were such as could in any satisfactory manner account for it.

The consequences of swelling of the testicles, which we have most to dread, are, a hardened state of the parts, which, even when one, but more certainly when both are swelled, is apt to be followed by impotency; and a morbid irritability, which is sometimes so great as to prevent the patient for a considerable time from using any kind of exercise, and from following the ordinary occupations of life, without hazarding a return of the swelling. Scarcely any occurrence can prove more troublesome or inconvenient than swellings of the testicle, and an enlarged

larged state of the upper and back part, when it takes place in any considerable degree, has *in many instances the effect of inducing impotency*. A permanent swelling of this part is a very frequent effect of an inflamed testicle, and I have met with several well marked instances of dropfy of the scrotum proceeding from the same cause.

BELL.



SECTION VIII.

Decay of the Testicles.

A GENTLEMAN had a clap, with a buboe, (a swelling, generally in the groin). A swelling of one of the testicles came on, for which he used the common methods, and seemingly with success.

success. All the other symptoms being removed, he thought himself quite well; but some time after, he found that the testicle which had been swelled was become rather smaller than the other, which made him now pay attention to it; this decrease continued till it wasted entirely. For some years past there has been no appearance of a testicle. HUNTER.

The testicles, we find, are apt to decay. One of them will begin to lessen in bulk, and in a gradual manner will either disappear entirely, or leave only a thin membranous substance in its place. For the most part the other remains sound; but I have known instances of both becoming affected at the same time, and others where the one

one remained entire as long as any part of that which was first affected was perceptible, but where it also began to decay as soon as the other was entirely destroyed.

I have found, that those in whom this affection occurs, have, in almost every instance, been in early life particularly addicted to onanism. In a few cases, it has appeared as an evident consequence of a swelled testicle. In some instances, this takes place while the testicle continues to the last of its natural degree of firmness; but in others it becomes soft and pulpy, or even dissolves into a fluid. It is seldom attended with pain, the patient being in many instances ignorant of
 F his

his loss till one, or perhaps both testicles are nearly consumed. *Hitherto no certain remedy has been discovered for putting a stop to this complaint.*

BELL.

SECTION IX.

Impotency.

VENEREAL weakness, or impotency, though not dangerous, is very alarming, and renders the mind of the patient extremely uneasy. I have repeatedly observed it; but in a particular manner in one patient, who several months before had been affected with a violent clap. The only remaining symptom was now a total inability

ability and want of desire, which rendered him extremely low spirited. I judged the complaint to proceed from the venereal (poison) lurking in the body.

It is well known, that long continued gleans, or discharges of matter after inflammation has subsided, are often the causes of impotency, or a deprivation of the power of propagating the species.

In people who have suffered much from frequent returns of gonorrhæa, particularly where gleet has taken place, I have known several instances of the seed running off suddenly and unexpectedly.

The local weakness induced in these parts by gleet, seems very much to resemble the effects of onanism ; a habit so baneful to many of our youth, that I believe it to be more destructive in its consequences than a great proportion of all the diseases to which in early life they are liable. Were it to prove hurtful to those only whose self indulgence gives rise to it, there would be less cause to regret the effects of it ; but, besides rendering the parent himself miserable, it evidently entails the highest distress upon posterity, by generating languor, debility and disease, instead of that strength of constitution, without which there can be no enjoyment.

I have

I have had so many instances in the course of my own practice, of constitutions being irretrievably ruined by indulgence in the habit of which we are now speaking, that I cannot avoid in the strongest manner giving my opinion of it. A very distressful stage of feminal weakness is the frequent consequence of gonorrhæa and gleet.

Impotency, whether it has been induced by onanism, or whether it be the consequence of gleet, should be distinguished into two stages: The one, so far as I have seen, being of a nature that does not admit of any certain remedy.

BELL.

SECTION X.

Blindness.

I must not omit to mention a disease, perhaps the most melancholy of all venereal complaints whatever, a violent kind of inflammation in one or both eyes, frequently accompanied with a discharge of matter, entirely similar in colour and consistence to that of a clap, and generally terminating in perfect blindness; and in other cases, instead of an inflammation in the eyes, a more or less perfect deafness.

Though I am by no means able to account for these complaints suddenly following

following the suppression of gonorrhæas, I am convinced of the fact.

SCHWEDIAUER.

There are two species of venereal inflammation of the eyes. The one comes on gradually, and arises from a tainted mass: The other is the most acute, violent, and dangerous, of any I know of.

I have seen three instances of this dreadful disorder, of which every one proved fatal to the sight of the sufferer. In two cases, both eyes were affected with blindness; in the third, one eye was affected immediately, but several years afterwards the sight of the other also was lost, and as it seemed without any apparent cause.

SCHWEDIAUER.

Venereal inflammation of the eyes is sometimes so painful as not to bear the light, but most frequently otherwise; and this last species is more dangerous than the first, because when a patient suffers little pain from light, he is apt to neglect the disease; by which the proper time for removing it is too often lost. In two instances of a neglect of this kind, I have known incurable blindness follow.

HOWARD.

The gonorrhæa of the eye is one of the most acute, inflammatory, painful and destructive attacks which can be endured; in comparing it with the whole class of acute diseases that locally affect human parts, I am not able to recollect another equal to it,
in

in rapidity, torture, or destruction. Two cases of this unhappy attack have come before me; in the first the eye was lost, and in the second, from timely treatment, and from being aware of the nature of the complaint, the eye was with difficulty saved. FOOT.



SECTION XI.

Irregular Symptoms.*

THE inflammation of a clap is accompanied with pain and the formation of matter. The neighbouring parts sympathize, a variety of symptoms

* By these are meant, not such as do not constantly occur, for many of the above symptoms are by no means constant, but such as cannot be classed under any particular name.

toms are produced; an uneasiness partaking of soreness and pain; the testicles, the region of the seat, the hips, become disagreeably sensible to the patient. There are sometimes small swellings in the groin. I have seen cases where the irritation has caused pain in the thighs and the lower part of the belly, so that the patient has been obliged to lie quiet in an horizontal position; the pain has at some times been so considerable as to make him cry out, and the parts have been very sore to the touch. I knew one gentleman who never had a clap but he was immediately seized with rheumatic pains; and this had happened several times.

This

This disease sometimes produces very uncommon symptoms: A gentleman had a clap; and when the inflammatory symptoms were abating, the urinary passage lost the power of retaining the urine. His water came away involuntarily, nor could he stop it. The complaint gradually lessened, and in time went entirely off.

It often happens after the poison is destroyed, and the venereal inflammation removed, that some one, two, or more of the symptoms shall continue, and perhaps prove more obstinate than the original disease itself; some of them shall *continue through life*, and even new ones shall sometimes arise as soon as the first subside. All these symptoms are commonly imputed by
the

the patients themselves, and what is still worse, either ignorantly or illiberally by some of the profession, to the original disease having been ill treated, or as is vulgarly said ill cured. But certainly, so far as we are yet acquainted with the disease and method of cure, this is not true; for the methods of treatment, though numerous, may be said to be very similar, and we shall find these symptoms not to be consequences of any one mode of treatment, but that they happen indiscriminately after them all.

Strange kind of sensations continue in the urinary passage. A gentleman had contracted a clap, of which he was cured; but for two years after, many of the symptoms still continued,
and

and even with considerable violence. The symptoms were the following : a frequency in making water, and when the inclination came on he could not retain it a moment ; a straining and pain in the bladder after voiding it ; a constant pain in the region of the bladder ; a shooting pain in the urethra, which extended often to the seat ; strange sensations in the region of the seat ; a sense of weariness in the testicles ; and if he at any time pressed his thighs close together, it brought on pain. It was supposed that he had the stone. The irritation of the bladder sometimes continues after every other symptom is gone, and it may be an attendant upon all or any of the other continuing symptoms ; it seldom lasts with the same violence,

violence, although it is often very troublesome. HUNTER.

It sometimes happens, that great distress remains long after the discharge, and other leading symptoms of gonorrhœa, are removed. Without any fixed pain, a patient will be suddenly seized with uneasiness over his loins; painful feelings over all the region of the bladder, particularly about the neck of it; a sense of weariness in the region of the kidneys, which sometimes becomes much pained; a considerable degree of uneasiness over the whole course of the urinary passage, particularly about the end, and a painful sensation of rolling, and other unusual motions in the testicles.

In some cases, these symptoms are conjoined with affections of the stomach and bowels. In different instances, I have known sickness and vomiting succeed to that painful uneasiness to which patients in this situation are sometimes liable in the kidneys.

Diffressful feelings above the seat frequently occur, which give cause to suspect, in some instances, that they proceed from piles, and in others from swellings forming in the end of the gut. A painful desire to go to stool often accompanies this set of symptoms.

In some, almost every symptom occurs, which usually takes place in stone in the bladder. A dull heavy
pain

pain is felt at the neck of the bladder, which spreads along the passage, and fixes upon the end. The patient is distressed with frequent desire to pass water, and in passing it, it often stops suddenly when coming off in a stream. In a few cases, symptoms of palsy of the bladder and urinary passages occur. The patient at one time finding it difficult, or even impossible to force urine out of the bladder, while at others it runs off in drops, without his being able to retain it. These symptoms frequently resist every remedy employed to remove them. In some, they are so fixed and permanent, that the patient remains in a state of constant distress, and experiences such a degree of it as he is scarcely able to support.

Even

Even in the most firm-minded people, these symptoms prove frequently very distressful; but where the mind is weak, and the imagination easily affected, they arrive, in some instances, at the most alarming height. In whatever degree they may appear, they are attributed to the preceding disease having either been improperly treated, or not completely cured; and when this occurs in a mind prone to fears and anxiety, the distress which they are apt to excite, is in some instances so great, as can scarcely from such a cause be supposed to exist. Whether a course of mercury be advisable or not, the patient is never satisfied till it be prescribed, for he is always afraid that his constitution will be ruined if it be omitted. When he

does not get well under it, as is the case in most instances, he then believes that he is incurable, and that his situation is desperate. All varieties of nostrums are now had recourse to; by the effect of these, and still more by the agony of mind under which he labours, his constitution at last begins to suffer; he gradually becomes weaker and emaciated; and if his life is prolonged, it is almost always a scene of anxious inquietude and distress. The cause of all or any of these symptoms, it is often impossible to explain. They are met with as frequently where the disease has been of a mild nature, and where it was cured in an easy manner, as where it has been severe and obstinate. We are not to suppose, that symptoms of
this

this kind are always ideal, merely from our not being able to account for them, or from the previous clap having been of such a mild nature as we imagine ought not to have produced them. I have met with instances of this, where the previous disease was exceedingly mild, and where no obvious affection of the parts was perceptible, and where yet the violence of the distress was in such a degree as kept the patients in a state of constant misery.

BELL.

A painful and frequent desire to go to stool often takes place, and, in some instances to such a distressful height as adds greatly to the misery of the patient. Even in the commencement of the disease, the pain in making

water is, in some instances, so severe as to excite heat, and other symptoms of fever; and in the more advanced stages of it, I have known the fever rise to a very alarming height.

On examining the parts affected, the penis is, for the most part, in a state of tendernefs and irritability, and on compressing the parts about the seat, a sense of pain arises, and the prostate gland is found considerably swelled, and in such a state of irritability that it can scarcely bear to be touched. Even the slightest degree of this affection excites much uneasiness, and the desire to pass water seldom ceases for above a few minutes together; but when the disease has been of long duration, the prostate gland becomes

becomes often so much swelled as nearly to obstruct the discharge of urine as completely as when the urinary passage is entirely stopped.

Frequently, indeed, the instruments employed for removing a suppression of urine cannot be used, for the gland is so much swelled as to obliterate the passage almost entirely, and their use is either impracticable, or at best difficult and uncertain. It is in the commencement only of this affection, that any material advantage is derived from the interference of art, and it is a disease which, in the more advanced states of it, excites the greatest possible distress.

BELL.

When a blood vessel of any magnitude bursts in the urinary passage, as sometimes happens when the inflammation runs high, such quantities of blood are discharged as prove highly alarming. I have known different instances of three or four pounds of blood being discharged in the space of a few hours.

The inflammation of the end of the penis sometimes terminates in mortification.

In some cases of clap, the skin covering the end of the penis is obliged to be laid open, or to be amputated; and it is not always that this operation delivers the patient from pain and distress. The end of the penis and the
skin

skin with which it is protected, are frequently attacked with warts on the termination of gonorrhæa. They rise in small points, which gradually become larger, and frequently so numerous as to cover a considerable part of the penis.

In some cases, they are first perceived in the urinary passage.

BELL.

SECTION XII.

Length of Time after which Infection may appear,—and be communicated.

THE generality of men feel the first symptoms of a clap on the second, third, or fifth day after an impure coition; but there are cases where

they are not observed till after as many weeks or months. I was consulted by a person in whom a violent discharge took place four weeks after infection ; though during all that interval he felt not the least symptom of the disease. A young man went to the East Indies seemingly in perfect health, but on his arrival in that hot climate, after a voyage of four months, a violent gonorrhæa broke out before he went on shore, though he could have received no infection during the voyage, as there was not a woman on board.

SCHWEDIAUER.

A young woman continued two years in the Magdalen Hospital. The moment she came out she was picked up

up by one who was in waiting for her; and she gave him a clap*.

A gentleman received a clap in the beginning of April 1780, which had disappeared by the first of June. September the first he married, and communicated the disease to his wife.

If it be true, as is asserted in the Voyage round the World, that the venereal disease was carried to Otaheité, it shews that it can be long retained after all ideas of its existence have ceased.

HUNTER.

SECTION

* There are frequent instances of men receiving claps from women who have been long apparently well. It is often difficult to say when they are really well. The poison seems to retain sufficient acrimony to infect others, when it no longer injures themselves.

EDITOR.

SECTION XIII.

*Duration of a Clap,—and of some
of its Effects.*

I MIGHT mention various instances of married men, who, from a clap contracted in youth, have frequently *during life* experienced numerous returns of the discharge. In some of these it will be absent for several weeks, nay, for months together ; while in others, *it has not disappeared for more than two or three days at once, during the space of twenty years.*

Although patients have been long accustomed to this discharge, they can never look upon it with indifference ;
they

they all find it troublesome and distressful, and are therefore anxious to get free of it. It is particularly apt to lay the foundation of some very obstinate and perplexing affections of the urethra.

BELL.

A hardness of the upper and back part of the testicle, often remains long after every other symptom is removed, and may continue even for life.

HUNTER.

From swellings of the prostate gland few recover.

BELL.

SECTION

SECTION XIV.

Difficulty of Cure.

EVERY candid practitioner will admit, that instances occur of different symptoms proving obstinate, notwithstanding a careful and attentive application of every remedy with which we are acquainted.

Whenever the higher parts of the urinary passage are affected, particularly those about the neck of the bladder, the running in almost every instance proves obstinate. Even our most powerful remedies in other cases of clap are here doubtful in their effects. Hence no certain opinion can
be

be formed of the event of the disease. When these deep-seated parts are affected, the disease proves always tedious, whatever the habit of body may be, but it necessarily proves much more so when the constitution labours under any general affection, particularly when scrofula prevails, than when the patient is found and healthy. Indeed a scrofulous taint existing with the most simple case of clap, is apt to render it obstinate. In the greatest number of patients of this description, the discharge goes on for a great length of time, and resists the effect of every remedy we employ to remove it*.

When

* This fact will appear to deserve serious attention, if we consider how very general a scrofulous taint is.

EDITOR.

When the prostate gland becomes swelled and inflamed in any considerable degree, no remedy can be depended upon for removing it. After a long course of time it will sometimes be diminished, but this happens more frequently without our being able to account for it, than as a necessary consequence of any medicine used.

In the commencement of this affection, the passage of urine is often much obstructed, but in its more advanced stages, this in some cases comes to such a height as to be unfurmountable.

SECTION XV.*Tendency to produce other Diseases.*

A CLAP either produces or is supposed to produce many disorders besides those already mentioned, and which are totally different from the original disease.

Most of these diseases attack men advanced beyond middle age, although many if not all of them are at times found in younger men.

HUNTER.

POPULAR VIEW
OF THE EFFECTS OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

PART THIRD.

THE VENEREAL DISEASE,
OR CONFIRMED POX.

SECTION I.

Preliminary Observations.

VARIOUS definitions have been given of the venereal disease, but the symptoms are so numerous and complicated, that no definition sufficiently

H

accurate

accurate can be given of it. In some instances it appears in a particular spot only, and continues apparently local for a great length of time ; while in a great proportion of cases, it soon contaminates the whole system, producing a greater variety of symptoms than perhaps any other disease with which we are acquainted. BELL.

There is no disease so full of variety as the venereal. The subtilty of the poison, when once it has taken possession, cannot be disputed. It is owing to the uncommon subtilty of the venereal poison, and the power which it has of attacking every component part of the body,—to the irregular action of the poison on each part, in point of succession,—to the length of time it will

will remain without discovering itself,—to the progress of it not being definable under any fixed periods,—to its assimilation on various parts to other diseases; which such parts are liable to,—that so many disputes have engaged authors.

Foot.

When the venereal poison has taken full possession of the constitution, not only the parts which indicate the disease to be venereal, but every part of the constitution is venereally affected.

When the symptoms of the venereal disease are not apparent, from having been obscured by mercury, the whole constitution may be infected; and it is possible that a subject thus infected, may beget a child in whom the vene-

real rudiments will grow, with every other natural quality which is imparted to the child from its father. A mother venereally infected will produce a child venereally infected; and these occurrences are very common.

Foot.

The order in which the disease appears is accounted for from the different construction of the parts. They are all from the first equally exposed to be attacked by the disease, and it is not improbable that it is acting on every part from the very beginning of the primary constitutional symptoms.

Foot.

SECTION

SECTION II.

General Symptoms.

HAVING premised some observations on venereal infection, I now enter into the consideration of the nature and symptoms of the venereal disease or confirmed pox.

The effects or symptoms which the venereal poison is apt to produce when absorbed into the mass, are shortly as follow :

1st, In the eyes : The most violent of all inflammations, with a discharge of matter, (from a suppressed clap), ending generally in perfect blindness,

or an inflammation of the eye itself, or of the eye-lids.

2d, In the ears : Deafness, with or without a discharge, from a suppressed clap, or from venereal poison affecting the ear or the throat.

3d, In the nose : Ulcers in the nostrils ; an ulceration of the skin lining the nose, with a rottenness of the bones, and a discharge of offensive matter.

4th, In the mouth and throat : Ulcers, rottenness of the bones, rawness, fore throat.

5th, In or about the genital parts, it will produce and prove a perpetual
source

source of excoriations, ulcers, fistulas, runnings, and warts.

6th, In the skin: Copper-coloured spots, tetters, scabs, especially on the edge of the hairy parts of the head, or in the beard; a scald-head, and when the disease is very inveterate, it sometimes, though seldom, produces a kind of leprosy over the whole surface of the body; a corruption of the nails, and ulcers of the most malignant kind, in different parts of the body.

7th, In the bones: Either the most painful and excruciating swellings, especially troublesome at night when the patient grows warm in bed; or an

H 4 ulceration

ulceration in their external, or a corruption of their internal substance.

8th, Sometimes the venereal poison will produce effects, the nature of which is so concealed, that they seem rather owing to some other cause. Such are pains in several parts of the body, resembling those of the rheumatism; pains in the articulation, resembling the gout; white swelling; nervous or hectic fevers; consumptions of the lungs, or a general waste of the whole body.

SCHWEDIAUER.

A pale sunken cast of countenance, which no words can convey an adequate idea of; a sense of weariness; wandering pains in the head, shoulders,

ders, arms, and legs, sometimes of the knees and ankles, precede the venereal eruption. These pains are sometimes felt in the day as well as in the night time. When not particularly severe in the night, which they more frequently are, they are generally attended with a want of rest or a nightly inquietude.

HOWARD.

In the last stages of the disease, when the habit is thoroughly vitiated by the poison having remained long unsubdued, the whole body frequently becomes unusually irritable; there is a quickened pulse, a proneness to anger, and seemingly a universal agitation of the nervous system; the daily paroxysms of pain, which come on with an exacerbation every night; the

want

want of rest, the open or lurking ulcerations in various parts of the body, cause this irritability, and impede; perhaps contaminate the functions of every secretion, and in this way may an atrophy or hectic be produced.

HOWARD.

The venereal poison produces fever, which is of the slow kind; and when it continues a considerable time, it produces what is called a hectic disposition. While this exists it is impossible that any thing salutary can go on in such a constitution; the patient loses his appetite, or even if his appetite is good, loses his flesh, becomes restless, loses his sleep, and looks fallow.

In

In the first stage of this disease, before it begins to show itself externally, the patient has generally rigours, hot fits, headachs, and all the symptoms of an approaching fever. These symptoms continue for some days, and often for weeks.

HUNTER.

When the disease shews itself on the muscular parts, it produces a tumour which will be exquisitely tender to the touch, and will in time become a spreading ulcer. There is often a pain on the joints resembling that of gout. The whole of the external part of the hip will be painful. The pains which affect the bones and membranes resemble the boring of a trepan. The bones will be subject to the worst effects when the disease has been suffered

suffered to go on; the thickest parts of them will swell out, and these at certain times will excite clamorous and raging torture. A caries or rottenness will penetrate their whole substance, and be so universal as to destroy their living principle, so that they become incapable of bearing the least force. Foot.

The functions as well as the parts which produce them, become impaired or destroyed, by which a period is put to the existence of the patient, sometimes by a fever attended with a looseness or profuse sweats. A wasting in the solids will expose the glandular parts, which will be found to be enlarged and knotty. The secretions everywhere will proclaim the disease;

as

as will also ragged excrescences on the verge of the feat, thickening of the foreskin, increasng warts, hardness of the testicle, ulcers on the bag containing the testicles, falling off of the hair and eye-brows. The nails will be diseased, lose their shining appearance, and will become rough and uneven, and there will be a redness on the skin at their roots. Such are general effects of venereal infection. In short, the whole of the fluids and the whole of the solids will be found to undergo a diseased change, from venereal constitutional infection. It will be apparent by the known progress of the disease and by its universal action, that sooner or later every visible part of the body, the whole of the solids and the whole of the fluids, will

will be exposed to suffer, to be changed, and to be contaminated by it.

I have related such symptoms as are certain to be the effects of venereal infection, and as will progressively go on, without the intervention of remedies. But it must not be imagined, that any relation which is or can be given of the venereal poison, will be perfect. Every patient who is confirmedly under the influence of venereal poison, will be possessed with some of these leading symptoms in the disease; but the whole are scarcely to be expected upon the same subject.

Foot.

SECTION,

SECTION III.

Chancres.

THESE are venereal ulcers on the private parts. EDITOR.

They begin with an itching on the part, which is gradually changed to pain; the surface of the foreskin is in some cases excoriated, and afterwards ulcerates; in others, a small pimple or abscess appears, which forms an ulcer. A thickening of the part comes on. When it begins on the under part, there is commonly a loss of substance. When these ulcers are forming, there is sometimes a tickling pain in making water.

Where

Where there is a considerable loss of substance, a profuse bleeding is no uncommon circumstance. The contraction of the foreskin is often so great as to interrupt the free circulation of the blood beyond it, which also assists in increasing the swelling, adds to the stricture, and often produces a mortification, by which means the whole diseased part is sometimes removed. In many cases, the inflammation not only affects the skin of the penis, but it attacks the body of the penis itself, often producing adhesions, and even mortification, either of which will destroy the distensibility of that part ever after, giving the penis a curve to that side in its erections. This sometimes takes place through so much of the substance of the penis,

as

as to produce a short and almost inflexible stump. HUNTER.

The effects of inflammation in the surrounding parts upon the constitution, are very considerable; much more so than what one would at first expect.

The patient sometimes sinks, and a mortification comes on*. It is very common for these diseases to affect the constitution, so as to bring on aguish complaints. I have seen several af-
I
fected

* The most distressful symptom which takes place from a mortification of these parts, is the vent which it sometimes gives to the urine. In some instances, one opening is formed; in others, two, three, or more. This adds to the hazard of the patient. BELL.

fects with regular agues, where the bark has produced no effect.

HUNTER.

In some instances owing to neglect, in others to some peculiarity of constitution, and perhaps occasionally to the matter of infection having been particularly virulent, chancres, instead of becoming clean, become daily more foul, and at the same time more extensive, and if their progress be not stopped they proceed to form sores of very considerable magnitude. In the glans, this variety of chancre is apt to go to such a depth as to prove very alarming. The danger is sometimes great from the hæmorrhages with which they are accompanied; and we are often astonished at the rapid progress

gress of the fores. In some instances, they extend so quickly as to destroy a great part of the penis in the course of a few days.

BELL.

SECTION IV.

Buboes.

A BUBO is a swelling, generally in the groin.

EDITOR.

The bubo commonly begins with a sense of pain, which leads the patient to examine the part, where a small hard tumour is to be felt. Some are most exceedingly painful.

HUNTER.

No part of the treatment of the venereal disease gives more distress to patients, than the management of the ulcerated state of buboes, which besides being accompanied with much pain, is often one of the most obstinate symptoms of the disease. Instead of yielding to the use of mercury, sores of this description become often more obstinate after mercury has been employed ; fever is apt to take place ; and where the constitution is not very robust, they even sometimes end in the death of the patient. BELL.

It often happens, that the cure of these sores proves tedious, notwithstanding all the attention that we can give to them. Their edges become hard, livid, and often retorted ; the
matter

matter thin, sharp, and fetid ; and instead of healing, the ulceration gradually extends ; or if it heals in some parts, it breaks out in others, giving a honey-comb appearance to all the contiguous parts. In some instances, the tendency to this depascent kind of sore is so great, that it soon spreads over all the under part of the abdomen, and upper parts of the thigh ; in some cases, by the matter being so acrid as to corrode and destroy all the contiguous parts with which it comes in contact, and in others by spreading beneath the skin, and bursting out from time to time in a variety of small ulcers.

The situation of patients with sores of this description, is often very deplorable.

plorable. The pain with which they are attended, is commonly severe; hectic fever is induced; the patient becomes hot and restless through the night; and almost a total want of appetite renders him soon much emaciated.

BELL.



SECTION V.

Ulcers in the Throat.

I HAVE known the matter of the venereal disease fix upon the throat in the course of ten days from the first appearance of a chancre, while in some instances the throat remains perfectly sound till several months after every external mark of the disease has disappeared.

In

In the venereal fore-throat the patient is usually distressed with some degree of uneasiness in swallowing, for some days before his attention is much excited towards it. The symptoms continuing, and an inspection being made, an ulcer is in most instances discovered on the part of which he complained in swallowing. BELL.

Venereal ulcers in the throat are sometimes seated so low down and sideways that we do not easily discover them at first sight, and thence we may sometimes be led to mistake the nature of the disorder.

A gentleman was affected with a fore-throat and fever. At the expiration of seven weeks I was consulted.

I examined his throat, and though I could not discover any ulcer, told him I suspected a venereal cause; which he hardly would agree to, relating to me, that he had no venereal complaint *these many years past*. I discovered very low down on the right side a deep but small venereal ulcer.

SCHWEDIAUER.

SECTION VI.

Ulcers in the Inside of the Nose and Face.

UPON venereal ulcers in the inside of the nose and face, the principal remark I would make is, that they are sometimes so malignant in their nature, and so rapid in their progress, that the bones attacked are actually destroyed,

destroyed, in some few instances, as soon as the state of the case is clearly known; and in others, before the remedy can possibly be used for a sufficient time, or with sufficient effect to check the disease. HOWARD.

SECTION VII.

Ulcers in different Parts of the Body.

VENEREAL sores, where they are affections of the under or true skin, have often an exquisite degree of tenderness, sometimes so great as to distort every feature of the patient's countenance, when he is dressed, though the sores are touched in the most careful manner. HOWARD.

Venereal

Venereal ulcers commonly have one character, which is, that they have no disposition to heal. HUNTER.

SECTION VIII.

Nodes, or hard Swellings proceeding from the Affection of a Bone.

THE growth of a node is perhaps one of the most painful symptoms of the venereal disease ; for although the pain is at first always moderate, it never fails to become severe on the tumour advancing in size.

BELL.

SECTION

SECTION IX.

Blindness.

THE venereal inflammation of the eyes, arising from a tainted mass, proves in many cases extremely obstinate for weeks and months.

SCHWEDIAUER.

The eye-lids will be thickened, rough, red, itching, watery, hard, and ulcerous; the under part of the eye-lid joining to the eye, will often discharge a sharp acrid fluid; and the outside of the eye will become dark, and sometimes it will be ulcerated. The very humours will be affected,
and

and sight will in consequence be destroyed.

Foot.

The matter of the venereal disease acts in different ways in producing blindness. In some cases it comes on in a gradual manner. The sight becomes less perfect from day to day. But for the most part the disease takes place almost instantaneously, the patient being entirely deprived of vision in the course of a minute or two from the time that his eyes become uneasy.

In some cases, only one eye is affected; but for the most part the disease attacks both at the same time.

Cataracts sometimes form from this cause.

But

But the most frequent effect of the venereal poison upon the eye, appears upon the humours and the cornea. In some cases it fixes upon the eye-lids, and chiefly upon their borders. The parts become red and somewhat tender, and an effusion takes place among the eye-lashes, either in the form of a dry scurf, or of a gummy viscid matter. In this latter state this effusion proves very troublesome, particularly after sleep, as it glues the eye-lids so firmly together, as to render it difficult and even painful to open them.

In some cases of this affection there is a constant flow of tears over the eye-lids, which always proves troublesome and even painful, by exciting tenderness,

ness, and occasionally some degree of ulceration of the cheeks. BELL.

SECTION X.

Deafness.

THE ears also will not be found to escape. There is not a more common symptom of venereal affection, and especially when associated with other affections, than an hissing noise, an aching pain, thickness in hearing, and deafness. The internal part of the ear is exposed to suffer by inflammation and ulceration, attended with violent and continual pains. The small bones which assist in the action of the ears, will be liable to be destroyed. A
thin

thin acrid humour will sometimes flow from the ears, and the outides will be thickened.

Foot.

I have seen several instances where deafness and violent pain of the ear were brought on by venereal ulcers affecting the inside of the throat. I have met with one instance where a perfect deafness was the consequence of a violent clap being stopped.

SCHWEDIAUER.

When treating of the venereal fore-throat, we had occasion to remark, that a certain degree of deafness is, in some cases, a consequence of that symptom. I have known a very distressful degree of deafness produced by it. Besides this, the venereal disease

ease in some instances excites deafness by fixing upon the ear itself. The bones seem to be most liable to be attacked with it. When this takes place, the patient is at first seized with a partial loss of hearing. This is succeeded by a discharge of fetid ill-coloured matter ; and in some cases, the bones themselves come away. I need scarcely observe, that a total and permanent loss of hearing ensues. BELL.

SECTION XI.

Irregular Symptoms.

WHEN the venereal matter has got into the constitution, it has the whole body to work upon, and shews itself in a variety of shapes ; many of which
put

put on the appearance of a different disease. I have seen cases where the skin covering the bone, or the bone itself, was affected prior to any other part. Its effects upon the deeper-seated parts are not like those produced in the external, and the difference is so remarkable as to give the appearance of another disease.

When it attacks the tongue it sometimes produces a thickness and hardening in the part; but this is not always the case, for it very often ulcerates as in other parts of the mouth. Venereal ulcers in these parts, are generally more painful than in other parts of the body. They oblige the person to speak thick, or as if his tongue was too large for his mouth, with a small degree of muffling.

It is perhaps impossible to know all the symptoms this poison produces when in the constitution. I knew a gentleman who had a teasing cough, which he imputed to it; for it came on with other symptoms of it, and was cured by the same remedy.

HUNTER.

In some persons, the venereal poison more particularly attacks the throat, where it produces ulcerations; while in others, it exerts its violence on the skin or bones.

SCHWEDIAUER.

Falling off of the hair frequently follows the employment of remedies whether effectual or not, and is generally believed to be one of the irregular

lar symptoms of the disease*. Falling out of the teeth is another symptom. It begins with an uneasy undescribable sensation of pain in the teeth and gums. Obstinate pain on the lower part of one side of the face, sometimes with, sometimes without, an evident enlargement, is another of the irregular symptoms. Pains on one side of the head, troublesome by day, but most severe by night: Sometimes these pains are followed by a puffiness of the scalp.

Large, dry, crusty scabs on the hind head, nape of the neck or scalp. Small tumours of the scalp, coming and going, either with or without a small

K 2 quantity

* BELL, vol. ii. p. 135.

quantity of matter, and arising after previous pains.

Pains arising on the shins, arms, &c. especially if such pains are nocturnal, are very suspicious. Palsy of the upper or lower extremities, arising from pressure on the nerves by disease in the bones of the neck or back.

A small crackling noise in the bones of the neck, upon moving the head from side to side*. Deafness, and a noise in the ears. Large and deep, or small superficial ulcerations of the tongue. Deep external ulceration of the face, spreading irregularly towards either corner of the mouth. Soreness
of

* I know a man who at present has this symptom.

of those corners. Rawness and ulceration on the internal parts of the cheek. Sciatica, or acute pain about the hip.

In most of these symptoms there is no small difficulty in effecting a lasting cure.

HOWARD.

Besides the pains resembling rheumatism, which occur in the venereal disease, pains of a different kind are apt to take place in the more advanced stages of the disease. They do not remain fixed or permanent, but produce sharp momentary stings, without leaving swelling or any other mark behind them. They are most frequent in the neck, temples, and jaws.

One of the most frequent symptoms of the advanced stages of this disease, is a gradual wasting of the body, This is no doubt a frequent effect of a mercurial course, particularly when too much of the medicine has been exhibited ; but it is also a symptom of the disease. Even where little or no mercury has been given, I have known a patient become much emaciated in the course of a short time. From being fat, and having a healthy florid complexion, a person will in some instances become suddenly lean, while his face will be wan or fallow, as if the vessels were altogether deprived of red blood. This I consider as one of the most fatal symptoms of the disease, from which, in the course of my observation,

vation,

vation, few or none have ever recovered.

Irritability and restlessness are two symptoms of this disease. When it has been of long duration, the system becomes so irritable that the most trifling occurrences prove distressful. No application can be given to business; the patient becomes fretful and uneasy, and his nights are spent in watching. But the most universal symptom, of the anomalous kind, which prevails in this disease, is fever. Nor is it confined to one stage of the disease. Occasionally it takes place in all of them. It is necessary however to remark, that fever which occurs in the commencement of the disease is very different from that which most

frequently prevails afterwards. The first may more properly be considered as symptomatic, being always connected with some local affection,—while the other often takes place where no other mark of the disease can be discovered. This fever is always of the hectic kind, and accompanied with nocturnal sweats. Hence the patient soon becomes emaciated.

The matter of the venereal disease often exists in the constitution for a great length of time, and is productive of fever, as well as a variety of other symptoms, where no local affection ever ensues.

BELL.

SECTION

SECTION XII.*Subtilty of venereal Complaints.*

SOME persons who have been formerly affected with venereal complaints, of which they have been apparently cured several months, nay sometimes several years, afterwards grow emaciated, begin to cough, and are affected with a hectic fever, and other symptoms which accompany a consumption of the lungs. These complaints are generally ascribed to some other causes, and medicines ordered, for the most part without any success. Sometimes the disorder is also ascribed to the previous use of mercury

cury in too large quantities. But I have seen several instances where a hectic fever with cough, and sometimes even with an expectoration of matter, arose from a latent venereal poison, without any other venereal symptom in the body. The same has been observed by others. An eminent surgeon relates a case in which it was probable that consumption arose from a venereal taint, and adds, that he had several patients of the same kind.

SCHWEDIAUER.

I would not advise any person to imagine, that he must be free from a venereal taint, because no symptoms directly appear after an irregular use of remedies; for it must not be forgotten, that although all the symptoms
which

which I have enumerated, be strong affirmative proofs of the action of the disease, whenever they appear, yet an absence of them is but a weak negative proof of the constitution being entirely free of the disease. It is a monster capable of assailing the constitution in a variety of shapes, and which as long as it remains in it, will again and again peep out on any visible part.

Foot.

SECTION XIII.

Length of Time after which venereal Affections may appear.

How long the venereal poison may lurk in the body after it has been absorbed

forbed into the mass, before it produces any sensible effects, is a matter of great uncertainty. There is scarce a practitioner who has not observed instances of its remaining harmless for weeks, or even months, in the body. I observed a case, where, after lying dormant for half-a-year, it broke out. But the following instance is still more extraordinary. I was consulted by a gentleman about a fore-throat; which I declared to be venereal. My patient was astonished, and assured me, that *for nine years past* he had not had the least venereal complaint, nor had any reason to believe he had since received any infection. SCHWEDIAUER.

A gentleman had a venereal fore-throat two years after the suppression
of

of a clap. His surgeon foretold, that some time after being cured hastily by his injection, the venereal disease would break out in some other part of the body, assuring him, that he had seen the same effect happen from the same remedy, in several other patients.

SCHWEDIAUER.

I have known cases where chancres have appeared twenty-four hours after the application of the matter, and I have known them seven weeks.

HUNTER.

SECTION XIV.

Duration of venereal Complaints.

THE interval between the removal of a symptom clearly venereal, and the recurrence

recurrence of the disease in a new or in its original form, is often a long one. Many instances might be adduced to prove the frequent return of venereal symptoms, at the distance of *many years* from the time at which the infection was received originally. That the interval may sometimes pass away without any evident symptoms of pox, or sensible appearance of ill health, is I believe certain. But it is no less true, that a careful observer will frequently be able to discover the features of the monster, under the great variety of disguises it will sometimes put on. The man who has never known a node, or a venereal eruption appear at the distance of five or more years from the original infection, may perhaps doubt the fact ; but
it

it is a fact notwithstanding, and happens much more frequently than has been generally imagined.

HOWARD.

In one case, I remember, a very considerable venereal eruption was thrown out, *many years after the infection.*

HOWARD.

To these narratives I can add the following, from my own knowledge.

A young gentleman had some venereal complaints. He went through the usual course of medicine, and being disposed to marry, he consulted his physician and surgeon, who assured him that he was perfectly well. Some time after his marriage, it appeared
that

that he had given the disease to his wife. They both went through courses of medicine, and were said to be completely cured. He soon after died. His wife remained a widow eleven years, and then married. Her husband soon found himself diseased, and knowing that he had run no risk of contracting the disease himself, he suspected his wife. Her character placed her at a great distance from suspicion; she had supposed herself well during her widowhood; she applied to the medical men who had been employed for her and her former husband, and no way of accounting for the disease could be found, but by ascribing it to him.

EDITOR.

It often happens, that after chancres are healed, and all the poison gone, the places ulcerate again, and break out in the form of chancres. Although this is most common in the seat of the former chancres, yet it is not always confined to them, for sores often break out on other parts of the foreskin; but still they appear to be a consequence of a venereal complaint having been there, as they seldom attack those who never had a clap or chancres.

I knew a gentleman who had these sores breaking out and healing up again, for years.

In some cases the parts do not ulcerate, but appear to thicken and be-

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come

come hard or firm ; both the nut and foreskin seem to swell, forming a tumour or excrescence from the end of the penis, in form like a cauliflower. This gives the idea of a cancer.

In this disease I do not know any medicine that stands the least chance of performing a cure.

In most of these cases, a considerable part of the penis must be removed.

HUNTER.

In treating of the local effects of the venereal disease, I observed, that after the poison was destroyed there remained in many cases some of the same symptoms, and particularly after a clap. It was also observed, that
though

though all the symptoms were entirely cured, yet they were liable to break out again: A gleet will appear, sometimes attended with pain, so as to resemble a clap. After chancres, there will be sores resembling them; and buboes after the poison is gone, will not heal, but spread. In the general venereal disease, the same thing often happens. These cases puzzle considerably, for it is difficult to say when the poison is absolutely gone.

Such complaints are more common in the throat than in any other part, for we often find, that while the ulcers are healing, or even healed, the throat will swell, become excoriated, and the excoriations will sometimes spread over the whole soft palate,

L 2

which

which renders the nature of the disease doubtful.

It often happens, that venereal abscesses will not heal up, although they have gone a certain length towards it. Some of the sores formed in this way, not only resist all means of cure, but often inflame, ulcerate, and form a hard callous basis, so as to put on the appearance of a cancer, and are often supposed really to be so.

A poor woman had undergone repeated salivations, which had always relieved the most pressing symptoms; but after being afflicted more or less for three or four years, ulcers broke out in her nose, and all over her face, with what is called a true cancerous appearance.

appearance. The sores became soon very deep, and gave very considerable pain. She lost her nose, and one side of her mouth.—The disease returned with redoubled violence, and soon destroyed her.

HUNTER.

SECTION XV.

Difficulty of Cure.

I HAVE seen a variety of persons affected with runnings, chancres, pains, and rottenness of the bones, eruptions upon the skin, ulcerations of the nose, throat, &c. warty excrescences in different parts of the body, but especially about the seat and private parts, which seemed obstinately to resist the effects of mercury; and which, so far

from being removed after a copious and disagreeable salivation, were rather increased by it, and when removed, often returned again shortly afterwards.

SCHWEDIAUER.

When a venereal symptom comes on at a late period, it is not only very difficult to cure, but it is sometimes very destructive in its consequences.

HOWARD.

When the disease has frequently occurred, and at very distant periods, it will become so assimilated and habituated with every part of the constitution, that it is scarcely possible to eradicate it. It seems *impossible to reflect without horror* upon the miserable lot of that subject who is possessed of this disease,
but

but who is not impressed with a true idea of the nature of it ; who applies for relief, but can obtain none. Although the venereal disease may be eliminated in all its stages by mercury, yet there are frequently instances, from mistakes in cases, where the bones in various parts of the human body will be in that state of confirmed disease, from long venereal action on them, and where such will be the destructive effects that they cannot be expected to be restored, neither by mercury, nor by any additional art that may be annexed to it. It seldom happens, that where the living principle in one bone is so destroyed as that there is not enough, if there be any of the sound part remaining, to give it support, and by which it in consequence

gives way,—I say it seldom happens that the disease is confined to that bone in particular,—others will be found advancing in disease from the same cause. The Golgothas of diseased bones, collected into anatomical cabinets, can be produced for proving this fatal truth, and for placing it beyond a doubt. Bones not suspected will be sometimes forward in disease: this cannot be more strongly evinced, than in that case which is related by Mr J. HOWARD, of a girl whose chin dropped suddenly on her breast, and who expired whilst she was under a salivation, and whilst her cure was in consequence looked for. It appeared, on examination, that one of the bones of her neck was decayed, and had thus suddenly given way. FOOT.

A woman in one of the hospitals in Southwark was under salivation. At a time when every danger seemed to be over, and she appeared to be getting well, her chin suddenly dropped on her breast,—she died in an instant, and without a groan. Upon dissecting her body, it was found, that part of the second bone of the neck had been broken off, in consequence of a venereal rottenness, and that the pressure on the spinal marrow which this accident made, was the immediate cause of her death*.

A gentleman five weeks after a suspected connexion, had two chancres. After they were healed, he had a
 swelling

* I saw a similar instance at Edinburgh.

swelling in both groins. He took medicine, but irregularly. At the end of three months from the time of infection, he was alarmed by the sudden appearance of a venereal eruption, and some slight pains in his limbs and head. He now went on with the medicine in a more regular manner. A little of the eruption continued for three months. He was languid and emaciated. He had pains in various parts of his body. Sometimes he would be perfectly easy for a week, or a fortnight, then a kind of paroxysm, lasting for a day or two. He had a prominence, or slight enlargement of the forehead, and the part was tender.

The quantity of mercurial ointment used during three months, was immense,

menſe. When he was about to diſcontinue the medicine, thinking himſelf cured, (for the pains he ſometimes felt he attributed to rheumatifm), he was ſeized on a ſudden with a univerſal itching, and whenever he ſcratched, a kind of raſh. There was an itching of the membrane covering the bones; there were evidently depreſſions of bone, which ſoon filled up, and were followed by ſmall tumours. There was one of theſe tumours on each elbow. They continued for two years after the diſcontinuance of medicine, and then imperceptibly waſted away. He felt during this time an unuſual itching about the ſeat, and there ſeemed to be a beginning ulceration. This was ſucceeded by a violent pain of the noſe, attended with a diſcharge of matter
from

from one nostril. Wearied out with the ineffectual operation of medicine; he formed a resolution of suffering his complaints to take their own course; and for more than three years he kept his resolution; during which time, the symptoms were as follows: The pains, both the rheumatic and the supposed venereal, had never totally left him, though the affection of the nose had ceased; but continued to recur at uncertain periods. They seemed to be for many months external. At the end of the third year, they were more internal, and more acute. He had frequently very violent shooting pains in each leg, with an extreme sense of weakness and general weariness; he looked fallow and unhealthy, and was considerably emaciated. He now underwent

derwent another course of medicine, very fairly for twelve weeks, and was much better. But when winter came on, he frequently felt transient pains in the centre of each leg, which although momentary, were sometimes violent; *and they continued for six years.* During this period, he had also felt violent shoots in the centre of each thigh bone, above each elbow, upon the backs of the hands, and on the outside of each leg. Besides these pains, he had others resembling rheumatism, which continued to recur five or six times in a year.

HOWARD.

SECTION XVI.*Imperfection of Cure.*

IT is well known, that not only the worst symptoms, but incurable deformity, blindness, and even death, have followed from imperfect cures of symptoms of the disease. A few instances will put the importance of the present subject in its true light.

I was called to a gentleman who had an abscess near the seat. He had besides this, one of the most rank venereal eruptions I had ever seen. I found he had been unhealthy for many years; a long time before this, he had been frequently clapped; about eight years
previous

previous to his present illness, he had a chancre and bubo, which was the last time he had been injured, and of these symptoms he supposed he had been perfectly cured; some months after this cure, he felt, what he had never before experienced, rheumatic pains; about two years from this infection, he was suddenly seized with an inflammation of one of his eyes, which gave way to the usual remedies; but when the inflammation went off, he found, to his unspeakable concern, that he had totally lost the sight of that eye; he said he had been deaf of one ear for some time, and that the eruption which I then saw on his body, had come on suddenly during the present illness.

Having

Having compared this man's account of the inflammation of his eyes with some others of the same kind since seen, I have no doubt of its having been venereal. The pains he called rheumatism, so long before the appearance of this inflammation, were probably venereal also.

A young gentleman who had been for some years infected, was attacked with a venereal ulceration of the nose and face. Means were employed for his cure. The persons under whose care he had been, supposed him well; but in about thirteen months the symptom returned with more violence than ever; the ulcerations were to the highest degree malignant, and hourly doing irreparable injury among the bones
of

of the nose and palate, &c. He was exceedingly emaciated, and inclined to be hectic. The most judicious means to check the progress of the ulceration and putrefaction, were used without effect. The disease continued to make its ravages in spite of every thing that was done, till it destroyed him; death taking place before his mouth could be properly affected.

HOWARD.

Enough of mercury may be taken for preventing a return of the symptoms on the softer parts, which usually precede the pains and nodes on the tendons and skin covering the bone, but not enough to eradicate and extinguish the venereal action on these parts, and on the constitution in gene-

M

ral.

ral. This is generally the cause of pains and nodes appearing, and continuing when no other symptoms are apparent.

Foot.

SECTION XVII.

Tendency to produce other Diseases.

AGUES, or intermittent fevers, have also been observed by Dr WERTHOF and others, either to be produced by the venereal poison, or concomitant with the venereal disease. Flying rheumatic pains, violent headaches, and pain in the hip, sometimes originate from this source. SCHWEDIAUER.

The venereal disease becomes often the immediate cause of other diseases,
by

by calling forth latent tendencies to action. If the venereal disease attacks the lungs, *consumption may ensue*; and in like manner where the bones are affected, or the nose, scrofulous swellings.

HUNTER.

I have observed, that the venereal disease was capable of bringing latent dispositions into action. This is remarkably the case with buboes, and I believe the disposition is more of the scrofulous kind than any other. It sometimes happens, that these sores when losing, or entirely deprived of the venereal disposition, form into a sore of another kind, and most probably of various kinds. How far it is a disease arising from a venereal taint, and the effects of a mercurial course

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jointly,

jointly, is not certain, but most probably these two have some share in forming the disease.

Such diseases make the cure of the venereal much more uncertain, because when the sores become stationary, or the mercury begins to disagree, we are ready to suspect that the poison is gone, but this is not always the case; the poison is perhaps only less powerful than the new-formed disease, and as it were lies dormant, or ceases to act, and when the other becomes weaker, the venereal begins to shew itself again.

A young gentleman, aged eighteen years, in consequence of a venereal infection, had two buboes, which were
both

both opened. They were treated in the usual manner, and at first put on a favourable appearance ; but when they were nearly healed, they began to ulcerate at their edges, and spread in all directions, rising almost to the navel, and descending upon each thigh. His nights became restless, and his general health was affected. A great variety of medicines were tried, particularly mercury in different forms, with little or no effect. Extract of hemlock did more good than any thing else, and was taken in unusual quantities. The ulcers were nearly all healed, after having tormented him upwards of three years ; when committing some irregularities in diet, and the sores getting worse, he returned to the extract of hemlock, which he had for some time

laid aside. He took only half the quantity that he had formerly taken, but his constitution had been at that time gradually habituated to the medicine. This quantity produced great restlessness and anxiety; he dropt insensibly from his chair; fell into convulsions, and expired in two hours.

That venereal complaints may be the cause of others, I think is very probable. I have seen a chancre the immediate cause of inflammation of another kind. I have known a venereal bubo become a scrofulous sore as soon as the venereal action was destroyed. The venereal disease seems to partake of the nature of such disorders as the constitution was previously

ly

ly disposed to, and may push into action the causes of these disorders.

HUNTER.

If the poison can exist in the system for a considerable length of time without shewing any external mark of disease, and of this, few I believe will doubt; it is difficult to conceive that it should not produce both general derangement and particular organic affections; and accordingly I believe, that it more frequently does so than we are usually led to imagine. The evidence which I could give of this would be exceedingly ample, as I could relate a very extensive collection of cases, in a great variety of diseases in which it actually happened. The diseases induced by the venereal poison,

of which I shall give instances, are, consumption, asthma, rheumatism, dropsy, headach, epilepsy, and madness.

BELL.

Mr BELL then proceeds to give instances, from his own practice, which fully support his position.

EDITOR.

SECTION XVIII.

Proneness to Infection.

SOME are more liable to be infected than others seemingly of the same habit; and those who have been once infected are more liable to catch the contagion a second time, than those who never were infected before with
the

the disease. The same difference is observable in the progress made by the disease after the patient is infected. In some the progress is slow, and the disease appears scarce to gain any ground; while in others it advances with the utmost rapidity, and soon produces the most terrible symptoms.

SCHWEDIAUER.

SECTION XIX.

Mode of Infection.

THE common mode of infection is too well known to require any mention.

Besides this, there are many others.

EDITOR.

A

A father or a mother venereally infected, whether they have any apparent symptoms or not, will produce a child venereally infected; and these occurrences are very common. Chaps in the lips may be the vehicle of infection, by kisses received from a subject who is constitutionally vitiated. The repeated venereal intercourse of a sound person, with a person whose constitution is venereally infected, will impart the disease. The disease is often produced in this way, when, upon examination, nothing is seen about the private parts of a woman to warrant a cause of infection; she may have, on all other parts, strong proofs of constitutional infection. A nurse infected, may impart it to a sound child who sucks her; and an infected child

child may impart it to a sound nurse, by sucking her.

Venereal affections from these causes, constantly occur. Even the blood of one infected being ingrafted upon a wound of another, will most completely impart the disease, and will impart it with more rapidity than if it were introduced by the usual mode of infection.

Every fluid of the constitution of one venereally infected, does virtually and actually possess a venereal vitiation; and venereal vitiation, although not in the least apparent to the eye, is capable of imparting the affection to another, when properly applied for that purpose; even if there be no local

cal venereal affection upon the part apparently, from whence the fluid is taken, and which does convey the infection.

Foot.

Mr Foot observes, that we have read cases from authors, of the disease breaking out without knowing when or how it was caught. He relates, that a medical gentleman had bitten off the cuticle or scarf-skin, which hung loose on his right fore-finger, and which generated into a chancre, from handling an opened body after death; so that he was contaminated, not by ulcerous fluid, nor chancrous fluid, but by a general venereal vitiation of the fluids. This chancre on his finger did not, nor would heal; and within three months, eruptions broke

broke out over his body, and which, with the chancre on his finger, gave way to mercury.

Mr Foot mentions another case of the same kind, which proceeded so far as to affect the bones. EDITOR.

In a great proportion of cases, the disease is given by one person to another in coition.

It is frequently given by a diseased child to a nurse.

An infected nurse can scarcely give suck without communicating the disease to the child. The disease may be communicated by venereal sores on

on the nipples, or by sucking the milk of a diseased woman.

The child may be infected as it passes from the womb.

The disease may be given to midwives by delivering women with venereal sores.

Surgeons, in dressing venereal sores, are sometimes infected; and the disease has been communicated by blood-letting with a lancet that had previously opened a bubo.

Cases sometimes occur, in which the matter is absorbed, while the skin remains entire. The system has, in different instances, been infected by
matter

matter left upon the lips in kissing, and by drinking out of a cup recently used by an infected person.

So readily does the venereal poison enter the system, that it can scarcely be applied to any part of the surface of the body, but with considerable hazard. I know, from various facts, that scarcely any part of the skin is so thick as to prevent it, particularly if the parts have been rendered tender or irritable, either by inflammation or any other cause. Nay, it sometimes happens where no affection of this kind is perceived. In two instances, the patients were poxed by the matter of venereal sores being applied to the fingers where the skin was sound.

BELL.

SECTION

SECTION XX.

The venereal Disease in Infants.

No period of life is exempted from the ravages of the venereal disease. They are frequently to be deplored even in infancy, and here the same symptoms appear, as in a patient of more advanced years; that is, when the poison enters the system in the usual way, from the surface of the body, the symptoms which ensue are nearly or entirely the same as in other periods of life; but when the disease is communicated to the child in the womb, some variety is observed.

BELL.

SECTION

SECTION XXI.

Abortion.

AMONG other baneful effects of the venereal disease, perhaps none prove more distressful than the frequent abortions which it evidently occasions. A child infected in the womb, will in some instances not come away till the full time; but in a great proportion of cases, abortion takes place in the sixth or seventh month. Of this I have met with such a number of instances, that I am induced to consider it as one of the most frequent causes of abortion; but as the child is commonly either born dead, or so weakly that it soon dies, sufficient evidence is

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not often obtained to lead the attendants to entertain any suspicion. Hence practitioners seldom hear of it, unless the disease has made greater progress than usual. I have now met with a considerable number of instances where abortion had regularly taken place in the sixth, seventh, or eighth month, and in which, from there being no mark of disease, either upon the father or mother, the real cause of it remained concealed, but was at last discovered.

BELL.

SECTION

SECTION XXII.

EFFECTS OF MERCURY.

TO these accounts of the Effects of the Venereal Disease, it seems proper to subjoin an account of the effects of the remedy universally employed, which is Mercury.

This account deserves great attention. It contradicts the assertion roundly and falsely made, by low and interested practitioners, that patients after venereal complaints are no worse. The fact is, that a course of mercury cannot be undergone for any complaint without injuring the constitution.

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When given with the utmost caution and skill, it unavoidably weakens the stomach, relaxes the whole nervous system, and renders the patient more liable to any disease to which his constitution, or other circumstances, had predisposed him. No person of candour and reflection, who has experienced the effects of a mercurial course, can say, that he is not, in some respect, injured by it. Volumes of testimonies of the injury done by mercury, might be produced. ASTRUC, whose accuracy is indisputable, and whose opportunities were great, ascribes a great number of bad effects to very moderate doses of mercury. They would too much enlarge this work, or they should be laid before the reader.

I shall content myself with producing a few testimonies from modern writers.

Mr HUNTER says: " We find that new diseases arise from mercury alone. The tonsils shall swell where no venereal disease has been before; the periosteum shall thicken, and also, probably, the bones, and the parts over them, shall become œdematous, and sore to the touch. Besides local complaints, arising from the combined action of the mercury, the disease, and the constitution, there is sometimes a constitutional effect, which is a weakness or debility, a languor, want of appetite, frequent sweats threatening hectic; but these happen mostly in

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those constitutions with which mercury disagrees.”

Mr FOOT says : “ I shall relate what I understand to be the effects of the poison of mercury upon the constitution. They are an acceleration of the pulse from a putrescent diathesis, a universal prostration of strength, a giddiness of the head with swooning, a bleeding at the nose, an increase of saliva, which will be viscid, and attended by pain and swelling of the maxillary glands, a brassy taste in the saliva, a stubborn, costive habit, an aching head, a throbbing in the temporal arteries, and the eyes hot and reddened.

“ Other

“ Other effects from mercury, are, cholic, attended with palsy of a limb, or general palsy.”

Though some of these effects are temporary, they are such as cannot be supposed to subside without leaving some lasting injury to the constitution; and though some may arise from an excess of the medicine, or from indiscretion during the use of it, yet where there is a tendency to such effects there cannot be safety.

An anonymous writer says: “ The mischief done by mercury and its preparations, even in good hands, has been perhaps equal to all the good it has produced. The occasions where it is administered

administered are innumerable, and the destruction is endless."

Mr HOWARD, whom we have quoted above, says: "The action of this medicine has a tendency to increase the disposition to hectic, in every the best possible temperament." And again: "How many hundreds are there who overlook or really are ignorant of the critical situation in which mercurial courses unavoidably place them."

Mr BELL says: "Mercury is perhaps one of the most universal stimulants with which we are acquainted. Even in small quantities, it often excites heat over the whole body, quickness of pulse, and other symptoms of fever. Besides the usual symptoms of fever, mercury

mercury is apt to excite restlessness, anxiety, general debility, and a very distressful irritable state of the whole system.

“ These are the ordinary effects of mercury, and in the treatment of the venereal disease one of the greatest difficulties we meet with, is the management of this medicine ; for while the cure of the disease often requires it to be given in considerable quantities, the constitution is apt to be materially injured if it be not exhibited with the greatest care and attention.”

THE END.

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OBSERVATIONS
CONCERNING
THE PREVENTION AND CURE
OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

INTENDED

To guard the Ignorant and Unwary against the
baneful Effects of that insidious Malady.

WITH AN

APPENDIX,

Containing a List of the most approved Medicines
now used in the Cure of this Disorder, also
their Doses, Manner of Application, &c.

By W. BUCHAN, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
EDINBURGH; AND AUTHOR OF THE
DOMESTIC MEDICINE.

Stultorum incurata pudor malus ulcera celat.

HORATII EPIST. XVI.

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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

THE following pages were written in prosecution of my plan for rendering medicine more extensively beneficial to mankind. They treat of a disease which, at once, tends to poison the springs of happiness, and to debase the human race. To shew men how far it is in their own power, by due care and attention, to prevent its destructive influence, is the professed design of the ensuing treatise. How far I have succeeded in the execution of this design must be left for others to determine ; but if these hints should in any measure conduce to put the young and unwary on their guard against the direful consequences

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sequences of this insidious malady, I shall think my time and attention have been extremely well bestowed.

Many reasons have induced me to select the Venereal Disease as the subject of a separate treatise. It is one of those complaints which, for the patient's peace and happiness, he often finds it necessary to conceal ; and, fortunately for him, this, by due care, may generally be effected. Besides, other diseases are often removed by the efforts of nature, or disappear of their own accord ; but in the lues venerea, nature cannot effect a cure. A good constitution is doubtless in favour of the patient, but no constitution can conquer the virulence of this poison. Whoever trusts to that will be disappointed. As a specific remedy is discovered, its properties ought surely to be made known to the public. Since the powers of the Bark were understood by all, every one can cure an ague ; yet this disease proves often more obstinate than a confirmed pox.

Unfortunately for those who labour under the venereal disease, its treatment has fallen
into

into bad hands. Not only Quacks of all descriptions undertake to cure it; but every idle fellow who does not chuse to follow some useful employment, sets up for doctor, assumes some well known name, and advertises an infallible remedy for the venereal disease. The apothecary's man, or even the apothecary's man's man, often passes for an adept in curing this malady. Nor is it uncommon, for the fellow who brushed the surgeon's coat, or cleaned his shop, to step into his master's shoes, and sometimes into his chariot, by his pretended skill in curing the lues venerea. These nostrum-mongers not only sell the same medicines to all their patients, however widely their symptoms may differ; but, unfortunately for them, the nostrum often does not contain a single grain of what we know to be absolutely necessary for their cure.

The credulity of mankind in regard to medicine, is truly astonishing. Even those who affect to be sceptical in other matters are the easy dupes of every pretender to a secret medicine: they will neglect the advice of the most skilful physician, and run after the

ignorant quack, because he promises them a sudden cure ; but alas ! this sudden cure, nine times out of ten, turns out to be no cure at all, and the disease is by this means trifled with, till it becomes altogether incurable.

The most frequent dupes to quackery are the young and unwary. They credit the contents of every puff that is put into their hands as they walk the streets, and swallow with eagerness the drugs it recommends. I would beg leave just to hint to such inexperienced youths, that the advertising quack, is, ten to one, more ignorant of medicine than themselves, that his sole aim is to take their money, and when he has got that, he cares no more for the patient. I am warranted to say this from daily observation, and am sorry to add, that too many, from woeful experience, know it to be true. So great however is the influence of quackery over the young mind, that I have seen one of those unfledged gentlemen, while I was writing a prescription for him, take up a newspaper, and casting his eye on an advertisement, which promised to do in a few days what I had told him would require weeks, if not months, to complete, put my pre-
scription

scription in his pocket, and haste away to the performers of quick cures.

No great skill is necessary to dry up a chancre, so as to make it appear healed in a few days. This they call curing the pox; but, if ever the pox existed, it cannot be cured in this manner. I know of numbers, however, who avow this as their common practice. Need any one be surprised to find obstinate ulcers, and carious bones as the consequence? The practitioner, whose sole object is to touch the patient's money, will patch him up, and get him off his hands, as soon as he can. Let all who wish to preserve their constitution, beware of such cures.

Some authors would persuade us that, in whatever shape the venereal disease appears, it never fails to do great injury to the constitution. I grant that, in some constitutions, this may be true, but am inclined to think, that the mischief done by the venereal disease, is often owing to wrong regimen, and improper treatment. The proportion of those who are able to obtain good advice, and observe a proper regimen, does not amount to one in a hundred. All the rest must put up with
such

such advice as they can obtain, and follow the best regimen that their circumstances will permit. By far the greater part are obliged to follow their necessary employments, however hurtful they may be, during the whole time they are taking medicine.

It is easy to say, that every man afflicted with the venereal disease, ought to have recourse to the best advice ; but how is he to obtain it ? The best advice is not easily purchased. Besides, men afflicted with the venereal disease are often in situations where no medical assistance of any kind can be had. These are the men for whom the following observations were thrown together. They are not designed to supersede the physician, but, in some measure, to supply his place where he cannot be had ; and to prevent those who are not able to employ him, from becoming the prey of ignorance and avarice.

It is a just observation, that there is a greater difference between a good physician and a bad one, than between a good physician and none. When I say a bad one, I mean the self-created doctor, who, while he knows nothing, undertakes every thing. A man of
common

common understanding, with the assistance of books, will conduct his own cure better than many of those who make a trade of curing the lues venerea. Nor is it a matter of small importance for a man to know when he is properly treated. It is on the ignorance of the patient that the Charlatan presumes. He knows there is no danger of detection while the patient is taught to dread, even the least dip, in medical knowledge.

A man should at least have as much information about this malady as to know when he has got it. Many have their pockets picked, by taking medicines for the disease, who never had it; while others are suffered to linger under the complaint for years, being all the while told that they had it not. I lately saw a remarkable instance of the latter, in a young man, who applied to me to know whether or not he had the malady, as his medical attendant had told him it was no such thing. I never saw the lues more strongly marked, and advised him immediately to begin a course of mercury, which he did, but not being able to observe a strict regimen, it was ten months before he was well, though his mouth was kept sore during most of the time.

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If men may fall into such hands, it is surely high time, that they were taught, at least, to know the symptoms of this too common malady. To talk of making all men physicians, is the extreme of folly. Surely the man who writes a catechism does not intend to qualify his readers for becoming doctors in divinity ; yet such is the folly of men, or rather the prejudice of the faculty, that whoever attempts to throw a little light on the public mind, with regard to diseases, is immediately branded with the intention of making every man a physician. Would to God that physicians were so easily made ! To be a physician is the business of a man's life, and the candid will confess that, to the last, he has still much to learn.

It is often a difficult matter, in the cure of this disease, to persuade patients to take mercury for a sufficient length of time. The wish to be soon well is natural, but it is productive of much mischief. The victims to quick cures are innumerable : yet men will run after those who promise them, though to their own destruction. Few days pass in which I do not see instances of the danger arising from imperfect cures of the lues venerea ;

neria ; and I have reason to believe, that those which are not seen, nor regarded, are still more numerous.

Nor is the difficulty much less in getting men to take mercury in sufficient doses. Mercury may be taken for any length of time, but if it is not administered in such quantities as to produce sufficient effects on the system, it will not subdue the poison. This, however, is not an easy matter to estimate. The difference of constitutions is such, that two persons can hardly be treated exactly in the same way, and our conduct must be regulated chiefly by its effects on the system.

Much has been said in favour of the alterative mode of administering mercury ; and it were greatly to be wished, that it could be depended on for completing the cure ; but with that view I dare not recommend it. No doubt it may succeed in certain cases, but it is not to be trusted as a general mode of treatment. When the constitution is too irritable to bear even the slightest degree of salivation, the mercury may produce its effects taken as an alterative. It may likewise be proper after a liberal use of mercury, when
it

it is deemed necessary to keep up the mercurial action on the system, to administer it in this manner.

It would be easy to bring forward a number of cases to prove the danger of trusting to the alterative method of cure ; but the following shall suffice.

Some years ago a merchant from North America put himself under my care, for, what the London physician, to whom he first applied, had treated as a cancer in the nose. I suspected the case to be venereal, and, from the patient's own account of the matter, there remained no doubt of it. Before he left America, he had taken mercury for above twelve months, and all the while the disease was preying upon the nose, till it had eat away both the *alæ nasi*, as they are called, occasioned an amazing degree of pain, and rendered him a shocking spectacle.

On looking over his apothecary's bill, I could perceive that the gentleman had used a sufficient quantity of mercury to have performed a cure, provided it had been taken in a fourth part of the time. Indeed the event proved the truth of this observation. I put
him

him on a course of mercury and diet drink, confined him to the house, and in less than two months his nose was perfectly healed, and continues so to this day. The deformity, however, for which he has to thank his American doctor, must descend with him to the grave.

About four months ago one of those unhappy females who often contract the lues venerea, but are seldom thoroughly cured, applied to me for a sore leg. The sore was a little above the ankle, had been long open, and shewed no disposition to heal. She said she believed it was owing to an ill cured pox, and added that she had been taking mercury, as an alterative, for upwards of twelve months, without the smallest benefit. As I was entirely of her way of thinking, I advised her to take the corrosive sublimate of mercury, in such doses as to keep her mouth sore, for several weeks, and likewise to wash the sore frequently with the solution of sublimate, as strong as she could easily bear it. I was agreeably surprised to see her come back within six weeks, to return me thanks for the cure, with her leg perfectly healed,

and in all other respects well. I have been long in the habit of treating these sores, which I took to be venereal, with the sublimate, and have seldom been disappointed in its effects.

The next case that I shall mention is, that of a gentleman resident in London, who had every opportunity of taking the very best advice, yet followed the worst. He thought he could follow his business and take mercury at the same time, with safety and effect. This he tried for a series of years, his nose all the while suffering a gradual diminution. This was imputed to some other cause, till at length, that organ totally disappeared. He, when too late, applied to an eminent practitioner in that line, who told him he had never taken the medicine properly; put him under a course of mercury; confined him to the house for some months, and made a complete cure of him. He now enjoys the blessing of perfect health, if health in such a mangled condition can be called a blessing, or deemed worth the enjoying.

After a very liberal administration of mercury there will often remain some marks of the disorder. In this case, if the alterative method

method is pursued, these will disappear, and this mode of treatment will get the credit of the cure, while it was wholly owing to the mercury previously administered. Whatever may happen in slight degrees of infection, or where the system has been previously impregnated with mercury, I would not advise any one who has got a confirmed pox to trust his cure solely to the alterative mode of administering mercury; otherwise he may have cause to regret the injuries done to his constitution, when it is too late to repair them.*

* The ease with which some people treat these matters, where life is concerned, is to me astonishing. A young gentleman lately applied to me who was all over covered with venereal blotches. He had been treated on the alterative plan for a considerable time, but without effect. I changed the mode of treatment, and he was cured in about two months. While under my care he met his old doctor, as he was pleased to call him, and told him what I was doing. He said I would make his mouth stink like the devil, so that he could not go into genteel company. This is delicacy with a vengeance! A man, rather than have a sore mouth for a few weeks, is to be eat up with the lues venerea; yet there are men who swallow these doctrines, because they coincide with their own wishes.

Many

Many retard their cure, and sometimes even prevent it, by leaving off the mercury as soon as it affects the mouth, and taking opening medicines to carry it out of the body. In fact the mercury is too apt to run off by stool, and never has its full effect on the system when carried off too quickly, either by the bowels or the mouth. The great art in administering mercury is to regulate the dose in such a manner as to keep the system fully saturated, without forcing it off by any of the outlets. This may generally be done by gradually increasing the dose, till the mouth is sore, and then keeping it so by smaller doses.

There is no disease where the patient is so much inclined to impose on the physician as in this. He will seldom tell the truth, and, perhaps never the whole truth; but what is still worse, he seldom implicitly follows the doctor's directions, with regard, either to regimen or medicines. It is indeed to be regretted that many patients cannot observe a proper regimen; but it is always in their power to be honest, and not impose on the doctor by throwing one half of their medicines away, while he thinks they have taken
the

the whole. This, instead of cheating the doctor, is cheating themselves, and, if they are disappointed of a cure, they certainly deserve it. The danger of doing too much is not less than of doing too little. A patient, who wishes for a speedy cure, will often take a double or treble dose of the medicine prescribed to him. Such a man may escape, but, by this conduct, he never fails to endanger his life.

Some patients think it is the business of the doctor to find out their disorders, without being told any thing about them. They treat physicians as conjurors, and think they need no information. A patient, who wishes for a cure, cannot be too open and explicit with his doctor. He should not only impart every circumstance he knows concerning his disease, but follow the doctor's directions, as far as it lies in his power.

Few things are more difficult than to ascertain the time when the patient is completely cured. It is more a matter of observation than of calculation. The quantity of mercury taken, the time the patient has used it, and
the

the preparation he took, must all be considered; but they will not ascertain the point. Even the disappearing of the symptoms is fallacious, as they will sometimes return; especially where the patient's habit leans to the scrofulous or scorbutic. The safest method is always to continue the medicine for some time after the symptoms have disappeared; unless in cases where the mercurial action has ceased, or the patient's strength is exhausted; when he must be put on a course of tonic medicines, with nourishing diet, and allowed the benefit of country air, and sea-bathing, if necessary.

Many absurd opinions still prevail concerning this disease, which lead to very improper practices. Such opinions generally die away as the public mind becomes more enlightened; but as that is by no means the case, with regard to medicine, we shall mention a few of them, only to shew how little foundation they have either in reason or common-sense.

One of the most absurd notions that ever entered the mind of man is, that a disease may be cured by communicating it to another. Yet in most countries this has been believed,
and

and is at present in this, with regard to the venereal disorder. We might as well suppose that one mad-dog, by biting another, would receive a cure ; or, that the wretch expiring under the plague, would recover by communicating the disease to those around him.

It would be difficult to say whether an attempt to obtain a cure by communicating the disease to another, is more wicked or absurd. Certain it is, however, that under this impression, innocence is betrayed, and loathsome diseases are diffused, without the possibility of any advantage being derived from it. On this false idea infants are abused, and the most flagitious crimes perpetrated, to remove what will yield only to the proper antidote; and, what still tends to aggravate the crime, this antidote is known to all, and is so easily purchased, that all may obtain it.

Nor is the idea of retaliation less wicked. Because a worthless woman has communicated the disease to a dissipated man, is he entitled to transmit it to as many as he can? The person who acts on this principle may as well alledge that, because he has been robbed on the highway, he has a right to make reprisals,

reprisals, by taking every man's money he meets. The law would tell him otherwise ; and it is 'pity there should not be a law to punish the unprincipled libertine, who makes it his boast that, by way of retaliation, he has communicated the disease to as many women as he possibly could.

This conduct is not only base, but criminal. The man who knowingly communicates a disease to another, which proves fatal, cannot, in my opinion, be considered in any other light than that of a murderer. Nor is the crime much less where the constitution is ruined. A person had better be killed at once, than left to drag out a life of pain and misery, under the influence of a loathsome disease.

The man who stops another on the highway, takes a trifle from him, and puts him in fear of his life, is hanged ; while the marauder on the public health escapes with impunity, is looked upon as a man of gallantry, and makes sport of that which proves fatal to another. But sporting with disease is sporting with human life, a thing of the most serious nature, though too little regarded either

ther by those who communicate this malady to others, or by many of those who pretend to cure it.

As regular tracts on this subject abound, I have contented myself with throwing together some loose observations, chiefly by way of caution, without much attention to composition or arrangement. Indeed the whole was the amusement of some leisure hours in a coffee-house, where I thought my time might be worse employed, than in furnishing such hints to my readers as I have often had cause to wish my patients had been acquainted with. Though a slight degree of knowledge will not make a man a physician, it may teach him to know when he has occasion for one; and, what is of no less importance, it will inform him when he has fallen into bad hands: nor will any one question its utility, where no regular assistance of any kind can be obtained.

Every attempt at theory has been carefully avoided, as it is apt to mislead the weak mind, and draw off the attention from facts, the knowledge of which is our surest guide in the cure of diseases. The speculative

physician may amuse himself with plausible theories, and even believe that he can cure all diseases by his favourite system ; but, when he comes to real practice, he will find that his art can only be learned at the patient's bedside. The knowledge of diseases is acquired, like that of men, by observation. Reading, no doubt, has its use, but it will never make a physician, any more than it will an expert mechanic, or a complete seaman. I would rather trust myself in the hands of an experienced nurse, than of a theoretical physician. I have known more instances than one of a physician falling a sacrifice to his own theory.

Although my motive in publishing the following Tract is to lessen the sum of human evils ; yet I lay my account with all the obloquy and abuse that the faculty, and their emissaries, can bestow on me. I have experienced a liberal share of it already, and this attempt is not likely to lessen their malice, or conciliate their esteem. It is a real misfortune to an author, to anticipate the age in which he lives. All who cannot, or who dare not, think for themselves, are sure to be his enemies : while the fordid part, who
think

think their trade in danger, allow him no quarter. Little do these malevolent spirits know, that their conduct is the direct way to establish what they wish to suppress. Useful works will force their way in spite of all opposition, and are often aided by it.

The man who attempts any thing out of the common road, has not only the ignorant and interested to contend with, but has all the prejudices of past ages to overcome. Men are tenacious of established opinions, and quit with reluctance the paths in which they have been accustomed to tread. The most absurd customs gain a sanction from time, and it is deemed a kind of sacrilege to attempt to overturn them. In this predicament stands medicine at present; and the author, who endeavours to free it from trammels, and extend its utility, is sure to create an host of foes.

In other branches of science men consider themselves as entitled to have an opinion. But whoever has dared to think for himself, in matters relating to health, and was not of the faculty, has been looked upon as an intruder, and held up to ridicule. Even in divinity,

vinity some excellent books have been written by laymen ; but phyfic is still engrossed by the faculty, and has succeeded accordingly. While the science is confined to a set of men who live by it as a trade, it never will be on a liberal footing. The little arts used to disguise and conceal it, only render it suspicious, and, instead of gaining respect to its professors, serve to hold them up to contempt. While physicians affect mystery, they are fair game for men of wit, and their art will continue to be the standing butt of ridicule and burlesque.

To bring medicine out of the schools, to lay open its hidden treasures, and to teach men how to make a proper use of them, have been reserved for the present age. Something indeed has been done, but much still remains undone, and, in all probability, many years will elapse before mankind in general become acquainted with the extensive utility of the medical art. Legislators have not availed themselves of its use, because they did not know it ; and those who should have taught them *have taken away the key of knowledge.*

*ledge**. Professional men have been afraid to deviate from the paths of their predecessors, lest they should draw censure upon themselves, and incur the hatred and resentment of their cotemporaries.

Those who have attempted to extend the benefits of medicine to mankind, have been few in number, and ill requited for their labour. This, however, shall not discourage me from endeavouring to render medicine more extensively useful. While I entertain a full persuasion, that men may derive many and solid benefits from a more general acquaintance with medicine, I shall never cease to give them all the information in my power, both with regard to the prevention and cure of diseases. I know the consequence will be fresh torrents of abuse from the faculty, but I am prepared for the worst they can do. While the rest of mankind are on my side, I can laugh at the malice, and despise the resentment of the faculty.

After the death of my worthy friend and collegiate, the late Dr. John Gregory of

* A code of laws for the preservation of health, properly digested, and duly executed, would be of more use to mankind than all the efforts of the faculty.

Edinburgh,

‘ They have narrow conceptions, not only of the divine goodness, but of the gradual progress of knowledge, who suppose that all pestilential diseases, shall not, like the small pox, sooner or later, cease to be the scourge and terror of mankind.

‘ For a long while air, water, and even the light of the sun, were dealt out by physicians to their patients with a sparing hand. They possessed for several centuries the same monopoly over many artificial remedies. But a new order of things is rising in medicine, as well as in government. Air, water, and light, are taken without the advice of a physician, and Bark and Laudanum are now prescribed every where by nurses and mistresses of families, with safety and advantage. Human reason cannot be stationary on these subjects. The time must, and will come, when, in addition to the above remedies, the general use of Calomel, Jalap, and the lancet, shall be considered among the most essential articles of the knowledge and rights of men.

‘ It is no more necessary that a patient should be ignorant of the medicine he takes to be cured by it, than that the business of government

government should be conducted with secrecy in order to insure obedience to just laws. Much less is it necessary that the means of life should be prescribed in a dead language, or dictated with the solemn pomp of a Necromancer. The effects of imposture in every thing are like the artificial health produced by the use of ardent spirits. Its vigor is temporary, and is always followed by misery and death.

‘ There are many things which are now familiar to women and children, which were known a century ago only to a few men who lived in closets, and were distinguished by the name of Philosophers.

‘ We teach a hundred things in our schools less useful, and many things more difficult, than the knowledge that would be necessary to cure a yellow fever or the plague.

‘ I would as soon believe that Ratifia was intended by the author of nature, to be the only drink of man, instead of water, as believe that the knowledge of what relates to the health and lives of a whole city, or nation, should be confined to one, and that a small or privileged order of men. But what have physicians? What have universities

sities or medical societies done, after the labours and studies of many centuries towards lessening the mortality of pestilential fevers? They have either copied or contradicted each other in all their publications. Plagues and malignant fevers are still leagued with war and famine in their ravages upon human life.

‘ Botallus in France, and Sydenham in England, it is true, long ago used the proper remedies for those disorders with universal success, but they were unable to introduce them into general practice. The reason is obvious. They recommended them in their writings only to physicians. At the expence of an immense load of obloquy, I have addressed my publications to the people. The appeal, though hazardous, in the present state of general knowledge in medicine, has succeeded. The citizens of Philadelphia are delivered from their fears of copious evacuations, of cold air, and cold water, and above all of a sore mouth from mercury, in the cure of the yellow fever, and the pride and formalities of medicine, as far as they relate to this disease, are now as completely discarded, in our city, as the deceptions of witchcraft were, above a century ago.

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What Dr. Rush thinks a bold measure, at this time, I undertook above thirty years ago, and have ever since been the butt of medical malice. The period is not yet arrived when medical publications may be addressed to the people with impunity. The same spirit of persecution has been excited against Dr. Rush beyond the Atlantic ocean, which I have experienced on this side of it. In all probability some ages will elapse before physicians can be convinced that their art will never be truly honourable, nor extensively useful, till its doctrines are laid open, and candidly submitted to the examination of all men. While disguise of any kind is practised, quackery will prevail, and medicine will be little better than a piece of mummary.

There is not a greater mistake than to suppose that diffusing medical knowledge encourages quackery. Quackery is founded on ignorance. The man who writes a medical prescription, couched in mystical characters and in an unknown tongue, countenances quackery, the very existence of which depends on disguise. If the faculty wish to suppress these pests of society, the advertising quacks, they must lay aside all manner of disguise

guise, and act like honest men. While quacks, and ignorant retainers to physic, engross the largest share of the practice, medicine will not be a blessing to mankind. But this will always be the case till men become so enlightened, in medicine, as to be able to distinguish between the real physician and the mere pretender.

As my former publication has been garbled and served up in a variety of forms, I make no doubt but this will share the same fate. It is my duty therefore to inform the public that no medical book, bearing my name, except this, and the domestic medicine, printed by Mr. Strahan of London, is genuine. This caution is the more necessary, as the size, type, paper, title, and matter of my book have been so closely imitated, that whole spurious editions have been sold.

Men have been emboldened to commit these frauds, from a persuasion that I was dead. A report to this purpose was circulated, by the faculty, soon after the publication of my book ; no doubt with a view to hurt my practice. It had a tendency however to promote the sale of the book*, and

* The works of dead authors are generally more esteemed than those of the living.

has been to me a perpetual source of amusement. I have seldom gone into mixed company without hearing many things which never could have reached the ears of an author supposed to be alive. This will enable me to tell the faculty many things they little think I know ; and, by-and-by, I shall tender them some wholesome ADVICE, without a fee. At present I shall content myself with giving them one hint; which is, to adhere a little more closely to truth. The misrepresentations which have been circulated concerning the Domestic Medicine, and its author, would fill a folio volume ; and, what to some will appear surprising, it consists with his knowledge, that, by these misrepresentations, even Royal Ears have been abused.

I am sorry to observe, that of all those who have attempted to imitate my book, no one has been so fortunate as to improve upon it. This, however, I consider as very practicable. It was a juvenile performance, and is, in many things, defective. These defects I have, from time to time, endeavoured to supply, as the frequent editions afforded me opportunities. But, as the book is now become

too bulky to admit of any farther additions; they must appear in a separate volume*.

As medical treasures of immense value still lie concealed from the public eye, it is my supreme wish to bring them to light, for the benefit of my fellow men. Should I live to accomplish this important purpose, I hope it will be thought that I have not lived altogether in vain. If mankind is benefitted, my end is answered. The faculty may then vent their spleen in what manner they please. Their censure will always constitute my highest praise.

* I intend, as soon as leisure will permit, to publish a second volume of the Domestic Medicine, by way of Appendix. This, beside many new articles, will contain the practical observations of above thirty years, which have elapsed since the first part was written. When that is completed, I hope it will render the work not altogether unworthy of the favourable reception with which it has been honoured by the public.

INTRODUCTION.

THE venereal disease has for many year's proved the scourge of Europe. When and how it was introduced into this part of the globe, are questions of very little importance. To check its progress however, and prevent the ravages it makes on the human species, are objects of the first consideration. These ravages are more extensive than is generally imagined. Though few die under the disease, yet its effects prove fatal to many. Numberless constitutions are inevitably ruined, even before the patient is aware of his danger, or the proper steps have been taken to prevent it.

Nor do these sufferings affect the guilty alone; the innocent are often involved in them: Even the infant unborn is punished for the vices of its parents. Society

INTRODUCTION.

itself is a sufferer. Instead of a robust and healthy race, men become weak and puny ; are eaten up with the scrophula and other diseases, till at length, become unfit for sustaining the common functions of life, they dwindle off the face of the earth.

It has long been my opinion that much of the mischief occasioned by the venereal disease might be prevented ; and that whoever effects this purpose will be one of the greatest benefactors to society. This important purpose can only be effected by teaching men how to avoid the malady ; and, when they have been so unfortunate as to catch the infection, to point out the means by which its bad consequences may generally be obviated. And here I will venture to say, that if men were taught to do what is in their own power, and had resolution to put it in practice, there would seldom be occasion for the physician, and little reason to dread the consequences of the venereal infection.

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While men are kept in the dark, and told that they are not to use their own understanding, in matters that concern their health, they will be the dupes of designing knaves; and a disease, the most tractable in its nature, and almost the only one for which we possess a specific remedy, will be suffered to commit its ravages on the human race, and to embitter the most delicious draught that Heaven has bestowed for the solace of human life.

In the first edition of my Domestic Medicine the venereal disease was not inserted. The reasons which, at that time, induced me to leave it out were of a delicate nature. Though time and experience have long convinced me that they were groundless; yet there are not a few who have expressed a wish to see this disease treated of at more length, and in a separate volume. With this wish I am inclined, on many accounts, to comply. Several circumstances attending this disorder, which do not apply to any other, render it highly necessary that every one

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should

should be acquainted both with its symptoms and method of cure.

The venereal disease arises from the gratification of the strongest passion which Nature has implanted in the human breast; a passion which has often acquired its full strength before reason has assumed her throne, and which not unfrequently sets reason, even in the full plenitude of her power, at defiance. Nature never intended that the propagation of the species should be left to the cool dictates of reason.

Though the power of this passion is acknowledged by all, yet, in most countries, a degree of turpitude, unless under certain circumstances, is annexed to its gratification. This lays the foundation of concealment, which too often, both in a moral and medical view, produces tragical consequences. Shame, fear, or false modesty, have induced many a young man to conceal his situation, till the disease has become incurable, which, if taken in the first stage, would not have occasioned the smallest degree of danger, or done the least injury to his constitution.

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What pity that a young man, the hopes of his country, and the darling of his parents, should be snatched from all the prospects and enjoyments of life, by the folly of one unguarded moment, and by a disease which is not, in its own nature, fatal; and which never proves so, unless from neglect or improper treatment! Yet these distressing scenes occur every day, while the afflicted parents often remain in ignorance with regard to the real cause of their misfortune.

When the unhappy sufferer by this disease perceives his situation, the same inclination to conceal it, too often induces him to apply to those pests of society, the advertising quacks, who, while they promise a sudden and secret cure, generally disappoint him. Every man conversant in the cure of this disease will readily own, that the most deplorable cases he meets with are those which have been under the care of quacks; till the patient, convinced of their ignorance, had recourse to proper advice.

The quack not only holds out the lures of expedition and concealment, but of cheapness. To some patients this is a matter of great importance: In this expectation, however, they are sure to be disappointed. When the quack finds that the patient's pocket will hold out no longer, he generally dismisses him, telling him he is cured, or leaving him to find a remedy where he can. No doubt the most ignorant pretender may sometimes succeed; but as untoward circumstances will frequently occur, it is safer to be in the hands of one who knows how to treat them, than of him who practises at random, and treats every case alike.

We daily see a pill, a powder, or a drop advertised, to cure the venereal disease. It would be equally proper to advertise a pill or drop to cure all diseases. The different symptoms of the venereal disorder require as different a method of treatment as any two diseases whatever. Indeed, properly speaking, it is two diseases; or, at least, appears under two such different
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forms, as to require a totally different mode of treatment. Whoever advertises any one nostrum for the cure of this disease, evidently knows nothing about it: The different forms under which it appears, not only require different medicines, but even the symptoms, at different periods of the same species, differ widely from one another, and are not to be treated in the same manner.

The whole art of medicine consists in discrimination. Any man may know drugs, but few know how to apply them. When a man tells us that mercury will cure the venereal disease, he informs us of nothing, unless he points out the symptoms in which mercury is proper, and also the manner in which it ought to be administered. Mercury administered at random, which I fear is too often the case, must do more mischief than good.

One great misfortune attending those who are afflicted with this malady is the necessity of disguise. In many situations of life a man may be ruined by its being known that he laboured under the vene-

real disease. The peace of many a family has been broken by the mistake of an unguarded moment, when all the injury might have been repaired, and the matter kept an absolute secret, had the unfortunate person known how easy a thing it is to remove this malady on its first appearance. Were any apology necessary for extending the knowledge of this disease, the above would be more than sufficient.

In all diseases it is of importance, as soon as possible, to know the nature and tendency of the complaint; But in none more so than in the venereal. This dreadful malady, which, in its advanced stages, commits such ravages on the human system, as to destroy even its most solid parts, may be disarmed of all its virulence by some gentle applications on its first appearance. To negligence, or to trifling with the first symptoms, we owe all the mischief arising from the venereal disease.

Other diseases often attack men unawares; but this is seldom the case with
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the venereal disease. It is generally the effect of an overt act, of which the patient must have been conscious, and has consequently reason to expect it. Thus warned, he is prepared to meet the disorder in its most early shape, and to use such means for preventing its further progress, as will be pointed out in the sequel.

A truly distressful situation frequently occurs, which makes an acquaintance with the early symptoms of this disorder necessary. It may be communicated in a variety of ways, and is often caught by nurses, and by married women, whose husbands lead dissolute lives, but who either want honesty or resolution to warn them of their danger. The deplorable situation to which such innocent persons are often reduced, before they are apprised of their danger, makes such communications as this highly necessary.

Though in nineteen out of twenty cases, where this disease occurs, the patient may be his own physician ; yet, from peculiarity of constitution, or some unknown

known cause, symptoms of an untoward kind will sometimes appear, which may render it necessary to take advice. These situations will be marked, and I would advise the patient always to apply to a man of character and skill in his profession, but never trust himself in the hands of a quack. It will be said, why not apply to a man of skill from the beginning? When this is in the patient's power, it ought to be done; but in many situations men of skill are not to be found, and where they are, it is not always in the patient's power to obtain their assistance. It is chiefly for men so situated that the following pages are composed. They are not intended to supersede the physician, but to show the patient what is in his own power in situations where better assistance cannot be obtained.

It is acknowledged on all hands that the venereal disease is less fatal than it was formerly. This does not seem to arise from any change in the nature of the disorder. Cases every day occur, where

where it displays all the virulence it ever possessed, and the miserable victims to its rage die in a condition too horrid to be named. Thank Heaven, however, these are few; and, if proper attention were paid to the first symptoms of the disease, they would be still less numerous: Indeed I am inclined to think they would hardly exist. During a long practice I have not known one patient die where due attention had been paid to the disorder from its commencement.

There is no disease which exhibits such striking proofs of the advantages of diffusing medical knowledge as this. When men were totally ignorant with regard to the nature and symptoms of this disease, they considered it as a plague, and gave themselves up for lost whenever they were afflicted with it: Their friends and relations abandoned them, and they were not only denied all medical assistance, but often left to perish for want of the necessaries of life.

It was held in such disgrace, that whole families, where it was supposed to be hereditary,

ditary, were despised, and all connexions with them avoided. Individuals were not allowed to come into company, nor would any one eat, drink, or sleep with them. People were even afraid to live under the same roof with the patient, lest they should catch the infection. Nor was this all; a degree of moral turpitude was annexed to this malady, which rendered the unhappy sufferer an object of religious abhorrence.

While such opinions prevailed concerning this disease, the consequences may be easily inferred. The unhappy patient would conceal his situation with all possible care, and would suffer every thing rather than become an object of disgrace and ridicule. I have actually heard people say, that rather than it should be known they had this malady they would lose their lives. While such sentiments as these prevailed, it is no wonder the disease should often have proved mortal.

In a fever or rheumatism, even when occasioned by the patient's imprudence,

dence, he is esteemed an object of compassion, and meets with general commiseration: While the unhappy sufferer under the venereal disease is seldom pitied; nay, some are even so cruel as to think he should be suffered to perish without assistance. Widely different is the language of humanity, which bids us do all we can to relieve our fellow-creatures in distress, from whatever cause it may arise.

People now, who are able to pay for it, generally apply for assistance on the first appearance of the disease, and seldom allow it to proceed till it becomes incurable. Unhappily, however, this description of people is not numerous. For one that is able to obtain proper advice, ten have either no advice at all, or, what is worse than none, *bad advice*. What was formerly called the gentleman's disease is now equally common among the lowest ranks of society. It is here the poison lurks, which, I fear, will never be eradicated. Though gentlemen seldom suffer the disease to remain uncured; yet,
when

when the infection has been caught, perhaps in its most virulent form, by an artificer, a common servant, or a day labourer, it is more than an equal chance against his ever obtaining a radical cure.

There is one class of society among whom this disease may be said to have its strong hold: I mean that description of females commonly called *women of the town*. However these unhappy persons were brought into this situation, they are certainly entitled to our pity, especially when, to all their other misfortunes, this loathsome and cruel disease is added.

Very few of this class of patients ever get thoroughly well. They generally apply to the most ignorant retainers to the medical art, and even to these they never do justice. They seldom take the medicines prescribed to them, and, when they do, they are unable to observe a proper regimen. Their necessities oblige them to go out in all weathers, and their dissolute mode of living is such as to counteract the operation even of the best-laid plan
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for effecting their cure, and to defeat the endeavours of the ablest physician.

Though unable to pay for advice, they have much in their own power, both with respect to the prevention and cure of the disorder. By a thorough attention to cleanliness they may often avoid the infection; and, by observing the directions contained in the following pages, they will be able to prevent the disease from going so far as to endanger the constitution. It is not very material whether a disease is eradicated, or rendered so mild as not to endanger life or injure the health. It is my fixed opinion that those two scourges of mankind, the great and the small pox, might both be disarmed of their malignity, so far as to be no longer the dread and terror of the human race. If this is in the power of medicine, who will dare to say that the art is not of the greatest importance to society?

In a former work I have endeavoured to show that the small pox may be rendered almost harmless by inoculation;
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and, in the following pages, I shall attempt to prove that the venereal disease may be disarmed of all its sting, by a due attention to its first symptoms. When I have done so, I shall allow the Faculty to censure my conduct as much as they please, and shall trust to those who reap the benefit of my writings to vindicate their author.

If the venereal disease has become milder than it formerly was, this change is not owing to the skill of the Faculty, but to the general knowledge diffused among mankind, concerning this, as well as other diseases. Though almost ashamed to own it, I am old enough to remember a method of treating this disease taught in the universities, which to an apothecary's apprentice, of the present times, would appear trifling.

The progress made in the knowledge and cure of this disease, since the publication of the Domestic Medicine, is a sufficient apology for treating it here at more length; especially as the opportunities I
have

have lately had of seeing the disorder, under every form, have been far more numerous than during the early period of my practice. My knowledge of the disease then, was chiefly taken from books. I shall now do little more than transcribe my own observations, adding, from other authors, such as have not occurred to myself. I shall not wantonly reject the sentiments of other writers; neither shall I implicitly adopt them, unless where I have reason to think they are well founded.

I am sorry to say that the conduct of one class of the faculty, who claim a kind of exclusive right to the treatment of the venereal disease, is a strong inducement to me to make mankind in general more acquainted with it. The delicate situation in which some persons who have received the infection, are placed, puts it in the power of those whom they entrust with their cure, to make very extravagant demands, as they know few people would chuse to liti-

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gate a claim of this nature. I am far from saying that this is the conduct of surgeons in general ; but that some are guilty of it I well know ; and I cannot help considering it as the most infamous species of imposition that can be practised on any man.

It is far from my intention to write a complete treatise on the venereal disease. This has been very fully accomplished by others ; neither would it suit the nature of my performance, which only aims at exhibiting such a view of that malady as will enable any person of common sense to know when he has caught the infection ; and, at the same time, to suggest the proper means for preventing its progress, or removing it in the early stages.

C H A P I.

OF PREVENTING THE VENEREAL
DISEASE.

TO prevent diseases must be of more importance than to cure them. Little attention, however, has been paid to this branch of the medical art, especially with regard to the venereal disease. Here the prophylaxis has been generally left to quacks, who, by puffing their pretended antidotes, have amassed fortunes, while credulous men, by trusting to their lies, have been tricked out of their money and their lives. I have known a dignified nostrum-monger insist that a gentleman had not the lues, merely because he had used his lotion according

to the printed directions. In this opinion he persisted till the patient had nearly lost his life*.

Men seldom give themselves any trouble about a disease till they have it. They think it is soon enough to apply the remedy when they feel the disorder. Hence the business of prevention is neglected, and authors complain that little can be done to effect this purpose; while the fact is, that the proper means are seldom used.

That both the clap and pox may be often prevented, by due attention to cleanliness alone, does not admit of a

* Some years ago I was requested to act as umpire between a surgeon and his patient. The surgeon insisted that the patient was poxed, while the other denied it, and refused to take the proper medicines. I, at first sight, declared the disease to be a confirmed pox; on which the gentleman produced a letter from a titled quack, desiring him to make himself easy, for that he could not possibly be poxed, if he had made use of his wash according to the printed directions. I told him I knew nothing of the wash, but was certain that no wash, if used according to his directions, would ever prevent the infection from taking place, and that his situation exhibited an evident proof of it.

doubt :

doubt: and even where the pocky infection has been communicated, its baneful effects on the system may be obviated by the timely and proper application of mercury.

I do not mean to quibble about names; but I maintain that a man who has a chancre only, cannot with propriety be said to be poxed. If the disease can be stopped in this state, which, in most cases it may, surely the pox is to all intents and purposes prevented; or what is nearly equivalent to prevention, the disease is rendered so mild as to be inoffensive to the system. When a disease cannot be eradicated, which I am convinced is the case, both with regard to the great and small pox, our business surely is to render it as mild as possible; and thank Heaven, it is now in the power of medicine, to disarm these herculean maladies so as to render their influence on the human constitution very inconsiderable.

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The business of prevention arranges itself under the three following heads; namely, the moral, political and medical means of obviating this malady.

To the first of these, as far as my recollection goes, very little attention has been paid; the second, unless in some small states, has been wholly neglected; and the third, as has been already observed, is generally left in the hands of quacks.

A young man of good morals is certainly less apt to fall into those snares which, too often, lead to destruction, than one who has never been warned of his danger, but is left to follow the bent of his own inclinations. No saying is more true than, “that the wicked shall not live half his days.”—I have seldom known a young man, whose morals had been neglected, who did not dash into every vice as soon as he was capable of it, and whose life was not, by that means contracted. If parents knew how necessary a moral education is for prolonging

longing the lives of their offspring, they would, perhaps, pay more attention to it, than when they consider it as merely subservient to their happiness in a future state.

An attention to health, which ought to be a primary object in the education of children, is seldom considered as even a secondary one ; while trifling accomplishments, of little importance in the pursuits of life, generally engross the attention both of master and scholar. I am happy, however, to find that an attempt has lately been made by Dr. Faust, a German physician, to impress the minds both of teachers and their pupils, with an idea of the importance of health ; and that this attempt has met with the warmest approbation of his serene highness the Prince of Wirzburg.

Young men are prodigal of life. They throw it wantonly away at the very time it is most worth preserving ; nor do they know the value of health till it is lost. Many a painful hour might be
prevented

prevented by a few cautions duly impressed on the young mind. Early impressions are seldom eradicated. They generally form the conduct, and become the rules of life. Were a young man taught to believe that the paths of pleasure lead to destruction; that if he pursues them, he will never arrive at mature age, but fall the early victim of loathsome disease; he would shun pleasure more than the gates of hell. The genuine consequences of vice need only to be painted in their true colours, in order to make it an object of horror to the youthful mind.

Young men ought not only to be taught to shun the allurements of vice; but, if they should be so unfortunate as to contract the venereal disease, by no means to conceal it. Candor is a virtue, and, as the poet says, the first fault is easiest to avow. The complicated mischief arising from concealment of this malady is only known to those who have an opportunity of seeing it in every shape and form under which it appears. A
young

young man ought certainly to stand in awe of parents and guardians ; but by no means to be so over-awed as to lose his life rather than disclose his situation. This, however, is no uncommon thing.

Though the best guardian of virtue is a good moral education ; yet a young man who has had every advantage of this kind may go wrong ; he will seldom however persist in error ; whereas a youth, void of principle will, not only run headlong into vice and folly, but will seldom stop till he has ruined both his fortune and constitution.

As example has more influence than precept, it might be of use to young men were they occasionally taken to places where the unhappy sufferers, under the venereal disease, are congregated. They would there see the wretched condition to which thoughtless youth may be reduced by the act of one unguarded moment. I have known the first mistake made by a young man, in this way, cost him his life ; and have seen others, who, from a single unhappy connection, were rendered

rendered incapable, ever after, of enjoying connubial happiness.

Though parents, tutors, and guardians, were to use every endeavour to keep youth from the snares laid for them by bad women ; yet, owing to the want of police in most great cities, they would find their efforts frequently frustrated. It is there the corruption of youth is almost unavoidable ; and their destruction, alas ! is but too often the consequence.

Much might be done towards lessening the ravages of this baneful malady by the exertions of the public magistrate. But to affect this purpose would require more skill and attention than one magistrate in a hundred is equal to. Undue interference in these matters does mischief, and to put them under proper regulations would require the most consummate wisdom. This, however, is no reason why lewd women should be suffered to prowl about in the public streets without the least restraint.

Were men to be seen at the corner of every street in a great city, armed with
swords

words and bludgeons to put every one in fear of his life, who would not comply with their demands; the public mind would be quickly roused, and proper measures taken to suppress them; yet the danger is nearly equal from those unhappy females who lie in wait to ensnare the unwary youth as he passes along. The young man must have uncommon resolution indeed, who can always resist these temptations; yet by yielding, in a single instance, he may be undone. One step leads on to another, till the unhappy youth, immured in vice, finds it impossible to retreat: It signifies very little, if a man is robbed of his health or property, whether it is done under the influence of fear or love.

Nor is youth alone in danger; even age and experience are not always sufficient protections against the allurements of beauty, and solicitation. Numbers, who would not go in quest of an amour, are not able to resist the temptation when thrown in their way with all its embellishments, especially after the social humour has been excited by wine and agreeable company.

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It is then the prostituted beauty becomes dangerous, and the health, happiness and peace of families are sacrificed.

Even the delicacy of modest women is hurt by the number of common prostitutes which they daily see in the open streets ; and their example must have an unfavourable influence on the younger part of the sex.

I shall be told there are laws in this country, for punishing such women. True ; but are any measures taken to prevent the evil ? the means used to suppress them are at once cruel and ineffectual. There is no want of good laws in this country for punishing crimes ; but there are few, or none for preventing them. Preventing crimes, like preventing diseases, would be of infinitely more importance than punishing the criminal.

Were it my province here to dip into affairs of police, I should think it an easy matter to suggest a plan by which the public streets of great cities might be freed from those women, who, by night and by day, infest them, without laying any unnecessary

necessary or improper restraints on the intercourse between the sex, dictated by nature and reason. Indeed all undue restraints on that intercourse do mischief. They lead to the commission of unnatural crimes, and to the formation of connexions which prove injurious to the dearest interests of society.

Proper laws for the preservation of health, do not exist in any country with which I am acquainted; but it does not from hence follow that they are not of great importance. Even those laws which are made for the protection of property are not, in my opinion, more necessary, for the happiness of society, than those which relate to health; though every man thinks he can take care of the latter, but wishes the former to be secured by penal statutes.

With the legislators of ancient states health seems to have been a primary object of consideration: nor do we think it would derogate from the honour of modern legislators were they to follow the example. Moses, who was certainly one

of the most antient legislators of whom we have any account, has evidently employed a great part of his excellent code of laws, in laying down rules both for the prevention and cure of diseases.

I know the washings, separations, and purifications enjoined by Moses, are supposed to be religious institutions, and to have a reference to inward purity. Be that as it may, they were certainly well calculated to preserve health in that country, and among the people for whom they were intended. Indeed I know no country where cleanliness can be dispensed with, or is not necessary to the preservation of health.

Nor is Moses singular in this. Many of the laws of antient Egypt related to health, and, as we are told, that he was instructed in all the learning of that country, there is little doubt that he availed himself of this information in framing his code of laws, many of which are so excellent as to have been adopted by the most enlightened European nations.

As impure connexions, however, will take place in spite of all precautions that

can be given, we shall next proceed to point out some of the medical preparations which have been recommended by way of preventives.

Preventives, as might naturally be supposed, consist chiefly of washes variously prepared, and composed of detergent ingredients. Here however I must beg leave to premise that all *specific* washes are impositions on the public. They not only possess no specific virtues for the prevention of the disease; but they divert the attention from the main object, which is washing, by holding up the idea of their being possessed of some peculiar qualities calculated to counteract the poison, and prevent its taking effect.

Much may be done by washing, if properly performed. We have been told it sometimes fails; it would be wonderful indeed if this should never happen. The wonder is, that it happens so seldom, considering the circumstances under which it is generally performed. What other peoples patients do I do not know; but most of mine tell me that when they caught
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the disorder they were so concerned in liquor as not to be capable of paying proper attention to the business of washing.

Another cause of failure is the propensity most people have to despise every thing they know, or that is plain and simple. Give them any disguised nostrum, and they will use it ; but they have no faith in the virtues of plain water, and, if they have not some secret wash at hand, the business is neglected. Even when patients have what they esteem proper washes by them, they are seldom properly used. Immersion alone is deemed sufficient; but no lotion, let its powers be what they may, can prevent the venereal disease by simple immersion.

Such is the effect of washing alone, that a gentleman told me he had tried to communicate the disease to a lady, with a view to ascertain a point of jealousy, but could not effect it. This he attributed solely to her extraordinary attention to cleanliness. I have known men who for many years had lived freely, with regard to the sex, yet never caught the venereal infection, owing to their strict attention to ablution.

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In all cases cleanliness is a virtue ; but, in the commerce between the sexes, it is indispensable, and those who neglect it are little better than beasts. There is a merit in practising this virtue, even from the fear of disease ; but, to a person thoroughly clean, this stimulus will not be necessary. If any virtue prove its own reward, it is cleanliness.

Nor would I have the modest matron less attentive to it than the impure. Men often apply to me who think themselves injured by their wives. They have inflammations, and often slight excoriation of the parts, which would never happen if their wives were sufficiently attentive, even to the use of cold water.

As a great number of different washes have been recommended for preventing infection, I shall insert a few of them, premising, at the same time, that all their virtues amount to little more than those of plain water properly applied ; or water impregnated with such ingredients as may render it more detergent, or cleansing, as soap lees, and such-like.

Some recommend water that has been impregnated with the virtues of quicklime; while others prefer the caustic alkali, or even the caustic volatile alkali, properly diluted. These, we have reason to believe, are the active ingredients in most of the washes commonly kept as secrets, and sold at a high price to enhance their value. We have no objection to their being used, provided the active ingredients are so diluted as not to hurt or excoriate the parts.

Many use Goulard's extract of lead as a wash: It is not so much a detergent as a dryer; and, though it makes a good injection in the gonorrhœa, we cannot infer from hence that it is proper as a preventive lotion. It may be used of different degrees of strength. What I commonly employ, both externally and internally, consists of a tea-spoonful of the extract to a tea-cupful* of common water. The corrosive sublimate of mercury, dissolved in water, has been recommended

* A tea-cup is supposed to contain about four ounces.

as a proper preventive wash. It may no doubt be used, but requires great caution, otherwise it will corrode the parts. Two or three grains to a tea-cupful of water is as much as can be used with safety. The sublimate is doubtless a powerful remedy in the lues; but how far its specific virtues may operate as a wash, I cannot say, as I never made trial of it in this way.

Even the crude mercury is by some used as a wash: It must be well triturated with honey and turpentine, and afterwards mixed with a quantity of water sufficient to dilute it. It is a clumsy preparation. If mercury is to be used for this purpose, we would recommend the sublimate.

I am inclined to think that a solution of soap, or a little of the shaving powder, made into a lather, would answer this purpose as well, if not better than any other wash whatever. It must, however, be used immediately, and applied properly. People often blame the wash when

the fault is their own. No wash will succeed unless it is applied early, and with due care.

I know a number of gentlemen, who, instead of trusting to any particular wash, make use of whatever liquor is at hand, as beer, wine, punch, negus, brandy and water, rum and water, &c. Indeed some recommend brandy alone in preference to any thing else. I have reason to believe it is a good wash, but cannot think it the worse for being diluted with water, especially with warm water, if at hand; but it ought rather to be used cold than time lost by waiting till it is made warm. Any liquor may be sufficiently warmed by holding it for a short time in the mouth.

CHAP. II.

OF THE VIRULENT GONORRHŒA,
OR CLAP.

IT is not my intention to enter into a critical inquiry concerning the distinction between syphilis and gonorrhœa. It would only tend to embarrass and bewilder my readers. My aim is to mark the symptoms peculiar to each, and to point out the method of cure. It is not material to know whether the gonorrhœa ever produces the pox; or if the pocky matter can excite gonorrhœa; so long as we know that each is attended with symptoms peculiar to itself, and that they require a totally different method of treatment.

Many who pretend to cure the venereal disease, treat every symptom in the same way. The very name with them implies the use of mercury, which they throw into the system, with a liberal hand, upon all occasions. I have seen constitutions totally ruined by the use of mercury, where there was not occasion for a single grain. Indeed mercury generally does mischief in a gonorrhœa; but seldom any good.

The term gonorrhœa is improper: It signifies a discharge of semen. Whereas the true *gonorrhœa virulenta* is only a discharge of mucus from the urethra, without any feminal evacuation whatever. When this discharge is accompanied with a sensation of heat, and some degree of pain in passing water, which the patient has frequently an inclination to void, there is little reason to doubt that he labours under the gonorrhœa virulenta.

It is impossible to ascertain the precise period, after impure coition, at which the running will appear. Sometimes it takes
place

place in a few hours; at other times it requires several days; and in some cases the discharge does not appear for several weeks. This variety, however, does not seem to have any considerable influence either on the duration or virulence of the disease. In most cases the running makes its appearance from the third or fourth, to the seventh or eighth day.

The appearance of the discharge varies in different patients. It is generally thin, and of a yellow colour, with a greenish cast; though sometimes it is white, and nearly of the consistence of purulent matter. In some cases the discharge is brown, and in others bloody, owing to the erosion of the vessels in the urethra. In common cases the discharge from the urethra and heat of urine are the only symptoms which occur: Though sometimes these are accompanied with painful and involuntary erections, uneasiness of the testicles, and of the abdominal viscera.

Though in a gonorrhœa some degree of uneasiness is generally felt along the

whole course of the urethra ; yet the pain is commonly seated about an inch from the point of the penis. In some cases indeed the disease spreads backwards, so as to extend over the whole length of the urethra, and even to the bladder itself. Nor are the prostate glands and internal coat of the bladder alone affected. Sometimes the pains stretch from these parts along the ureters, even to the kidneys.

It is impossible, at the beginning, to say precisely in what manner any case of gonorrhœa will terminate. Symptoms of the mildest kind will occasionally succeed to a violent discharge ; while, in other cases, the contrary takes place. It is generally supposed that the disease will prove mild, and of short duration, when the running is white or yellow ; and that, when it is at first green, or tinged with blood, the running will prove obstinate : But though this may be generally true, it is by no means universally so.

It is reckoned a favourable symptom in gonorrhœa when the discharge becomes

thick and ropy. Though this is unquestionably one of the most favourable occurrences in every clap, yet it is by no means a certain proof that the discharge will soon terminate. In certain constitutions the running will prove obstinate, even where the symptoms are all favourable.

When the running does not soon become ropy, but continues thin, and of a pale colour, there is reason to fear that it will terminate in a gleet. This, though by no means a dangerous symptom, is one of the most unpleasant that attends the venereal disease, and in many cases proves very obstinate.

There is a kind of spurious gonorrhœa, commonly called *gonorrhœa simplex*, which in many respects resembles the real one. Married people are often alarmed at the appearance of this complaint, and medical men, who are not sufficiently acquainted with this disorder, may do much mischief. No man should declare any running from the urethra, in either sex,

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to be venereal from the appearance only. In this case his opinion must be guided by circumstances, otherwise he will be apt to go wrong.

A married man has applied to me several times, thinking himself injured, at the same time assuring me that he had not been guilty of any deviation from his wife, whom I knew to be an amiable and virtuous woman. I only advised him to wash the parts with Goulard's extract and water; and occasionally to throw up a little of it diluted, as directed in the gonorrhœa. This was all that I ever found necessary to remove the complaint, which generally disappeared in a few days.

METHOD OF CURE.

It has already been observed that mercury is not necessary for the cure of a clap. Some people imagine that as soon as the infection is caught the system is tainted; but this is by no means the case: The clap is, at first, perfectly a local disease,

ease, and may be cured by local applications. These are generally of the astringent kind, and may be varied in a variety of ways. Many people are afraid to use astringent medicines, lest they should drive the disease into the habit; but this is owing to their want of experience. I have used astringent injections in the cure of clap for many years, and cannot fairly say I ever saw any disagreeable consequences that could justly be imputed to them; unless in such cases as will be afterwards pointed out.

As soon as the running appears, and there is no inflammation, stricture, or swelling of the parts to forbid it, my practice is immediately to use an astringent injection. Of these there is great variety. What I prefer is the white vitriol dissolved in water: This may be used in various proportions, from half a dram of vitriol to a whole dram, to the pint of water: But, for the convenience of my patients, I generally give it in the following manner;

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That they may not have any trouble in preparing the medicine, I dissolve an ounce of white vitriol in four ounces of water, and desire the patient to put a tea-spoonful of it to a common sized tea-cupful of water. Of this he is to throw up two or three small syringe-fuls, five or six times a day, keeping in the injection for some time, by grasping the fore-part of the penis with his hand. This operation is easier performed than described, and can be better done by the patient himself than by any one else.

The above quantity is seldom all necessary: Indeed the half is generally sufficient; but it is better to have some to spare than to have too little, as the injecting ought always to be continued for some time after the running has stopped. I have known this quantity, not only cure the patient, but also several of his acquaintance; and, as it will keep for a length of time, it may be carried to sea, or on a journey of any length. Several patients have

have told me, that, after curing themselves, on a voyage to America, they had enough left, out of the above quantity, to cure one or two of their neighbours.

If the injection occasion great pain, I order it to be weakened, by adding some water to it, so as to lower it to the patient's feelings. If the running does not stop in a few days, I desire him to make it stronger, by adding a little more of the solution, till it is as strong as he can bear. In this way the medicine can always be adapted to the patient's feelings, and to the exigencies of the case.

The preparation of lead, which commonly goes by the name of Goulard's Extract, may be used in the same manner as the solution of vitriol, and will have nearly the same effects. Where the one does not succeed to my wish, I commonly try the other; but am more partial to the vitriol, as I think lead ought always to be applied with caution to interior surfaces.

As one or other of these injections, made stronger or weaker according to circumstances,

cumstances, generally succeeds, I seldom find occasion for any of a different nature; but, that patients may have it in their power to make a choice, I have subjoined various forms of injection at the end of the book.

This injection generally cures a clap in a few days, provided no untoward symptoms appear. I make it a rule, however, to keep the body gently open during the use of the injection. This may be done various ways, but gentle purgatives are the best. What I generally use, for this purpose, is a cooling, opening powder, composed of cream of tartar and gum arabic, in powder, each an ounce; jalap in powder, two drams: These are to be mixed, and a tea-spoonful taken at bedtime in a cup of gruel or any other weak drink. Should this have no effect, another tea-spoonful may be taken in the morning, and a third at noon, if found necessary to keep the body open. If a tea-spoonful of the powder gives more than one motion, it will be sufficient to use it every second or third day.

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The patient's body is not only to be kept open, but he ought to avoid all food and drink of a heating or stimulating nature. He is likewise to avoid violent exercise, and every thing that may heat or inflame the parts, as hard drinking, running, wrestling, riding, and such-like. Cold is also to be guarded against, especially exposure to wet, sitting in damp places, sleeping in damp beds, keeping on wet clothes, and the like.

Sometimes untoward symptoms will occur, in spite of all our care; but these would be less frequent were due attention paid to the patient's diet, and the other articles mentioned above. It is to be regretted that patients have not this always in their power; and when they have, they are often very negligent.

Though injections will be found by far the most agreeable, safe, and expeditious method of cure; yet they are not to be indiscriminately used in all cases, and in every stage of the gonorrhœa. By not distinguishing between those cases
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where injections may or may not be used, much mischief is done, and the practice brought into discredit.

There are particular habits of body where injections do hurt; such as the highly inflammatory, or persons of a very irritable nerve. In such habits injections are either not to be used at all, or to be begun in a very diluted state, and gradually increased in strength till they produce their effect. If any symptoms of inflammation or swelling appear, they are immediately to be discontinued.

While the inflammation is confined to the lower part of the urethra, and does not extend upwards toward the root of the penis, or neck of the bladder, it is safe to inject; but when the inflammation extends upwards, and seems to threaten the prostate glands, the bladder, and parts adjacent, injections would prove hurtful.

In the first stage of gonorrhœa the discharge proceeds from a part of the urethra not above an inch, or at most an inch and a half, from the point of the penis.

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While this is the case, even though a considerable heat of urine*, and some degree of chordee takes place, injections may be used with great advantage; and these symptoms, instead of being aggravated, will by their means be alleviated.

What is called the inflammatory diathesis is so strong in some patients, that I have seen a large tumour rise in the groin merely from the application of cold water externally to the parts of generation, during the progress of a gonorrhœa, which was so gentle, that the patient mistook it for a gleet, and took this method of removing it.

The true criterion with regard to injecting is the state of the inflammation. When this runs high, with great tension, pain, and swelling of the parts, it would be wrong to inject. Indeed, when this

* *Ardor urine*, or heat of urine, as it is usually called, is an improper name for a symptom which depends, not on the heat of the urine, but the tenderness of that part of the urethra where the inflammation is seated, and over which the urine passes.

is the case, the running ought rather to be encouraged than checked, and the patient put upon a cool and diluting regimen, assisted by bleeding and other evacuations.

When the inflammation is considerable, it sometimes terminates in suppuration, a circumstance by all means to be guarded against; as it not only proves highly distressing to the patient, but is frequently destructive to the parts of generation. In this case every effort is to be made to ward off the impending danger, by lessening the inflammation.

To check the progress of inflammation, besides the means already mentioned, I would recommend poultices, made with the sugar of lead, or Goulard's extract, to be constantly applied to the parts, and bleeding with leeches. This, which has been my practice for many years, now begins to become general. In almost every local inflammation, leeches may be applied with advantage, but in none with greater benefit than those of the genitals.

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have often been a witness of their good effects in such cases, and would recommend a re-application of them as often as the symptoms may render it necessary; or, till the inflammation is abated.

The gonorrhœa in women differs so little from the same disease in men, both in its symptoms and method of cure, that it hardly merits particular notice. The symptoms, however, are milder in women than in men; and, from some of the most distressing, they are wholly exempted: But the seat of the disease being nearer the bladder in women, that organ is more liable to inflammation than in the other sex; nor do they suffer less from what is called the heat of urine.

As women are subject to other discharges, which have a great resemblance to the gonorrhœa, it is more difficult to ascertain the existence of the disease in them than in men. It may, however, be known from the heat of urine, which rarely occurs except in gonorrhœa, and likewise from the colour and consistence

of the discharge, which is thinner and more pale in the *fluor albus* than in the gonorrhœa.

The discharge is to be removed in the same manner, and by the same means, as in men: And, if the inflammation runs high, the same cooling medicines will be necessary; likewise bleeding and gentle purges. It is fortunate that the same astringent injections which are used for the gonorrhœa are equally proper in the whites. The only circumstance that can forbid their use is a high degree of inflammation, especially when the inflammation extends to the coats of the bladder, which may be known by the pain affecting that very sensible organ in a high degree.

OF THE CHORDEE.

A painful symptom which often attends the virulent gonorrhœa, is called a chordee. This is peculiarly troublesome in the night, or when the patient has an erection.

erection. In habits liable to inflammation, or where the pain is violent, bleeding and other evacuations are necessary. Some recommend emollient injections, with laudanum, and rubbing the parts with mercurial ointment.

I generally order the parts to be frequently rubbed with camphorated oil, or some emollient ointment; and the patient to take from thirty to forty drops of laudanum in a draught, at bed-time. As this symptom is connected with inflammation, the patient ought to live sparingly, and to avoid the sight of such objects as may excite lascivious ideas.

CHAP. III.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE VIRULENT
GONORRHŒA.

ALTHOUGH gonorrhœa virulenta is only a local disease, and does not seem to affect the system; yet it often occasions symptoms which prove both tedious and troublesome: Symptoms which, though not always dangerous, are very vexatious, and sometimes continue during the patient's life. Of these the most common are, obstructions in the urethra, swellings of the testicles, and of the lymphatic vessels, gleet and seminal weaknesses, warts, excoriations, and other affections of the glans and prepuce.

OF

OF OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE URETHRA.

Of all the symptoms subsequent to a virulent gonorrhœa, the most painful and dangerous are strictures of the urethra, or urinary passage. These not only endanger, but often destroy life; and, when the patient falls into unskilful hands, he may be deprived of his virility. When these symptoms do not yield to bleeding, cooling purges, emollient fomentations, and the use of bougies, the assistance of an able surgeon should, if possible, be procured. He will generally find occasion for all his skill in removing these untoward affections, which, notwithstanding the most skilful treatment, will sometimes occur.

Obstructions in the urethra may be occasioned by spasmodic affections of the part, tumours in the substance of the urethra and neighbouring parts; fleshy excrescences; carruncles, &c. In all these affections the patient is to expect relief chiefly from the proper use of bougies:

gies. Though a degree of science might seem necessary for the proper management of bougies, I have always found patients, with a very little instruction, able to make a proper use of them, without any trouble or danger to themselves. Indeed, if a patient does not know how to introduce a bougie himself, it will often be of no use to him. A man may be seized with an obstruction of urine on a journey, or in many situations where he can neither procure a bougie, nor find a person to introduce it. Patients have often told me that they must have lost their lives on a journey, if they had not carried bougies along with them, and known how to use them. Indeed every person subject to obstructions of urine ought to carry bougies in his pocket.

It is not here necessary to give any instructions concerning the making of bougies, as they can always be had ready made, of a superior construction to any that men, not practised in the art, can pretend to make themselves. They ought, however,

however, to be made with care. Should a bougie break in the urethra, it might be attended with very serious consequences. Nor is care less necessary in introducing them, otherwise much mischief may be done by wounding and irritating the tender parts about the neck of the bladder.

In using bougies it will be proper always to begin with a small one, and gradually to use them of a larger size, as the urethra becomes dilated, and is accustomed to bear them. They ought also to be gently introduced, avoiding force as much as possible, and humouring the passage so as not to give pain or fetch blood.

A knowledge of the force that may be necessary in passing a bougie cannot be acquired but by practice. Indeed the whole art of surgery is, in a great measure, acquired in this way. A man will learn more from seeing the operation once performed, or from having it done upon himself, than from twenty pages of description.

The time that a bougie should remain in the urethra must be regulated by the patient's

patient's feelings. Few people at first can bear to keep them in above half an hour; but, by custom, they come to be able to let them continue for several hours, and some sleep with them in all night. Walking and other exercise, while a bougie is in the urethra, ought to be avoided, as it is apt to hurt and inflame the parts.

Another mode of regulating the time for keeping a bougie in the urethra is the intention for which it is used. If it is introduced only with a view to draw off the water, there is no occasion for its remaining in, as the urine generally follows as soon as it is withdrawn. When the intention is to remove carruncles or strictures, it ought to be kept in for several hours, or all night, if the patient can bear it.

In using a bougie great care should be taken to prevent its slipping into the bladder, otherwise a painful and dangerous operation would be necessary for extracting it. This may always be prevented by bending about half an inch of the thicker
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end of the bougie, and tying a piece of narrow tape or pack-thread round it, of a sufficient length to prevent its getting into the bladder; or, if it should slip in, to draw it out again.

A bougie ought always to be tried before it is introduced, by bending it the whole length with the finger, so as to be satisfied that it is elastic and tough at every part. Whether they had been improperly formed, or kept till they were rotten, I do not know; but I have seen bougies, when attempted to be bent, snap like a bit of glass. The best way to have them genuine is to apply to a person of character who makes them himself, and to pay the best prices, as they are sold at very different rates; but cheap articles of this kind are never to be trusted. Indeed, in every thing belonging to medicine, whatever is sold low, is generally doubtful.

OF THE SWELLED TESTICLE.

A swelling of the testicle is not peculiar to the gonorrhœa. I have seen it where no such disease ever had existed: But as it frequently occurs during the progress of this disease; and is a very troublesome symptom, we shall mark its progress, and point out the most likely means for lessening the pain, and removing the disorder.

Sometimes both testicles swell; but it more frequently happens only to one; though occasionally they are affected in turns. The first attack is very painful, but afterwards the pain is inconsiderable. The swelling at first is chiefly confined to one part of the testicle; afterwards, however, and sometimes in a very short space, it affects the whole. In the progress of the disease the testicle becomes hard, the skin which covers it puts on an inflammatory appearance, and the pain is accompanied with a sensation as if the testicle was moving or rolling about.

When the testicle swells, the running generally abates. This leads people to
imagine

imagine that the swelling is occasioned by the matter falling on the testicle; but it evidently proceeds from a transfer of the inflammation from the one part to the other, arising from sympathy, or from irritation. Whatever is the cause, it ought to be removed with all possible speed, as it has many disagreeable consequences, some of which continue for life, and even tend to destroy the power of procreation.

As the consequences arising from an inflamed testicle are dangerous in proportion to the degree of inflammation that takes place, our great aim must be to keep the inflammation as much under as possible. This will be best effected by keeping the body gently open, applying anodynes and repellents to the parts affected, using opiates internally and leeches externally.

It has been already observed that in all local inflammations one of the best remedies is bleeding. In full habits blood may be taken from the arm; but it will have a better effect if taken from the part, or as near to it as possible. This may be
done

done by applying leeches to the scrotum. I shall be told that, as the bite of a leech cannot reach the testicle, it will be of no use: But reasoning is of little weight against daily observation. Long experience has taught me the benefits of this practice; and I will venture to say, it is both the safest and best remedy for the inflamed testicle, with which we are yet acquainted.

What first led me to try this practice was the case of an officer of the army, who had the misfortune to get a swelled testicle, a few days before he was obliged to embark with his regiment for the West Indies. Something was to be done immediately: I ordered as many leeches as conveniently could to be applied to the scrotum, and to be renewed occasionally, as circumstances might require. By this means the swelling and inflammation had so far subsided, in three or four days, that he was able to attend to his duty.

When the bleeding is properly conducted, there will be little occasion for any other medicine. It will be necessary, however,

to keep the body gently open, by such things as are recommended in the gonorrhœa. When the pain is very intense, from twenty-five to thirty, or thirty-five drops of laudanum may be taken in a little of the patient's drink, twice a day, or oftener, if necessary to ease the pain.

Repellent applications are recommended, and may have their use. Some apply cloths dipped in brandy, others use a mixture of Goulard's extract and water, a tea-spoonful to a tea-cupful, or so: While many prefer poultices, made with the extract or sugar of lead. I think a poultice of oat-meal, or of rye-meal and vinegar, equal to any of them.

OF GLEETS.

In the gonorrhœa a discharge from the urethra will, in some cases, continue after the symptoms of inflammation have disappeared. This is commonly known by the name of a *gleet*, and often proves very obstinate. While the discharge is capable of communicating the infection,
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it cannot properly be called a gleet; but it is difficult to determine the precise time when this takes place: Some suppose, when the discharge becomes transparent and viscid, like mucus, that it ceases to be infectious, while others affirm, that, notwithstanding these appearances, the infection may still remain.

While the inflammation which produced the running continues, there is reason to suspect that the infection is not subdued, and that the matter then discharged is equally capable of communicating the disease as at the beginning. Till therefore the discharge becomes clear and transparent, and the pain which accompanied the inflammatory state of the disease has entirely ceased, we can never be certain that the gonorrhœa is radically cured.

Sometimes the discharge will entirely disappear, and the patient think himself well, when, from irregularity, violent exertions, riding on horseback, too early commerce with women, or such-like, the running will break out again, with
every

every mark of a fresh infection: But when the patient has no reason to suspect that he has caught the disease anew, he has no occasion to be uneasy at this appearance; as it will soon cease on a re-application of the medicines which stopped it before.

When people find that this discharge does not communicate infection, they are apt to be indifferent, and to let it run on without using any means to put a stop to it. This, however, is wrong, as a long continuance of the running, not only weakens the system, but lays the foundation of some affections of the urethra and neighbouring parts, which may prove very troublesome and obstinate.

This complaint furnishes a strong argument in favour of astringent injections, as it is often the consequence of a long-continued gonorrhœa. Indeed the best method of cure, in its most obstinate state, is by injections. Astringents taken by the mouth have, no doubt, their use; but the most efficacious medicines, after all, are
F those

those which belong to the class of astringent injections.

Though astringents taken internally are useful, yet they are not solely to be relied upon. Among these we reckon the bark and steel, either taken separately or conjunctly. They may be used in the following manner :

Take Huxham's tincture of the bark, three ounces.

Tincture of steel two drams. Mix, and take a tea-spoonful in a glass of red wine, three or four times a day.

Or, if the patient prefers a pill—

Take filings of steel prepared, one dram.

Extract of Peruvian bark, two drams.

Oil of caraway seeds, twenty-five drops

Let these be made into thirty pills, one of which may be taken three or four times a day.

External astringents have likewise their use, which, by the bye, ought rather to be called tonics. The principal of these is the cold bath; but what I chiefly recommend is sea-bathing. This is not only

ly more safe than the fresh-water bath, as the patient is not so apt to take cold ; but as obstinate venereal complaints are often accompanied with a scrophulous taint, it may prove doubly useful.

We have few better tonics than the Tunbridge waters. As they prove beneficial to women afflicted with the whites, we may conclude that they would be of use in gleets. They ought, however, to be drunk with caution, as they prove heating, if taken in large quantities. Those who drink them ought likewise to live regularly. I have known much mischief done by using these waters, and, at the same time, making free with wine.

The stimulating astringent balsams are likewise recommended in the gleet ; as the balsam of Capaiba, the Canada balsam, &c. From twenty to thirty drops of either of these may be taken on a bit of sugar four or five times a day. But what I have found to answer still better than the balsams is the tincture of Catechu. A tea-spoonful of it may be taken in a glass of red wine three or four times a day.

When tonics and injections fail, sometimes bougies will succeed. They answer nearly the same purpose as stimulating injections, and are more safe. Bougies composed of the most simple ingredients will often effect the purpose of exciting a sufficient degree of inflammation: But, if they should fail, they are easily rendered more active by dipping them in oil of turpentine, in a thin liniment of wax and oil, with a small proportion of red precipitate, or in common basilicon, reduced with oil of turpentine, to the consistence of a liniment.

There is reason to believe that the most efficacious medicine for this complaint is the cold bath; but few patients have resolution to persist in the use of it for a sufficient length of time. I have been told by a gentleman who had been afflicted with a gleet for above twenty years, that he had often put a stop to it, for some time, by bathing in cold water; but that not having sufficient resolution to persist in it, the complaint had always returned. This gentleman, though

though very diffipated, had, at the time I ſaw him, a wife and ſome healthy children ; which ſhews that the diſeaſe does not prevent procreation.

OF WARTS AND EXCORIATIONS.

Warts ſometimes affect the glans and prepuce on the termination of a gonorrhœa. They are more troubleſome than dangerous, and may generally be removed by the application of cauſtics: Of theſe the moſt gentle are firſt to be tried, and, if they fail, recourſe muſt be had to the more active. I have often cut them off with a pair of ſharp ſciſſars.

When excoriations happen, they only require the application of ſome aſtringent waſh. Bathing the parts frequently with a ſolution of white vitriol, or a mixture of Goulard's extract in water, of the ſame ſtrength as that recommended in the gonorrhœa, will anſwer every purpoſe.

CHAP. IV.

OF THE LUES VENEREA, OR POX.

THIS dreadful disorder, which makes such havock of the human species, when neglected, is generally so gentle at its first appearance, and so very tractable, that there is no disease where the practitioner gets so much money and credit for doing so little: But that little must be done in due time, otherwise the disease acquires a force, which the most skilful physician is not always able to overcome.

The lues venerea is generally introduced into the system by means of a chancre. If this is properly treated, the disease seldom proceeds any farther; but, where it is neglected, it will produce the

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pox, and a train of dreadful consequences. If all these consequences can be prevented by a proper treatment of the chancre, on its first appearance, it will amount to nearly the same as eradicating the lues venerea altogether. How far this is practicable will appear from the following observations.

For the last twenty years, I do not think one day has passed on which I have not seen the venereal disease, in one shape or other; yet during all that period I do not recollect one instance of a patient, who applied to me, on the first appearance of a chancre, becoming poxed. Though a chancre is the origin of, and will seldom fail to produce a pox, if suffered to take its course; yet it cannot with propriety be called a pox, any more than the person who has been inoculated for the small pox, can be said to labour under that disease before it appears on the habit.

Though chancres are not confined to any particular part of the body; yet they

generally appear on the glans or prepuce, and frequently on the frenum which joins the two together. Sometimes I have seen them on the back of the penis, and even on the scrotum and pubis. When chancres appear on other parts, as the fingers, lips, &c. the infection has not been received in the common way, but by means of a wound, or by some of the softer parts coming into contact with a venereal ulcer.

The period at which chancres appear, after impure connexion, is uncertain. They generally make their appearance in a few days; though sometimes weeks elapse before the patient is informed, by a chancre, that he has received the infection. This may depend on the irritability of the parts to which the poison is applied, on the degree of acrimony with which the matter is endued, or on the quantity lodged on the part.

Though chancres assume different appearances, a person accustomed to look at them will seldom be deceived. To others a
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definition would be of little use. Every person must know when he has been in danger of catching the infection. If, in a few days after a suspicious connexion, he perceives a small speck of a pale reddish colour on the parts where chancres commonly appear; and if this speck gradually becomes a small boil, which afterwards bursts into an ulcer; he has reason to believe that the infection has taken place, and that he has been inoculated* for the greater pox.

Sometimes there is only one chancre, but they more frequently come in clusters, and often run into one another, so as to cover almost the whole prepuce, and

* There is a wonderful similarity in the progress of the infection in the lues venerea and inoculated small pox. If a small quantity of matter taken from a pustule on the point of a lancet is introduced under the cuticle, in two or three days a small speck of a reddish colour appears, which gradually becomes a pock. The matter of this pock, taken up the lymphatics, and carried into the system, communicates the disease.

give the appearance of a foul spreading ulcer. These ulcers generally have callous edges, and discharge a thin ichor. In this, however, as well as in their size, they differ widely from one another. The most certain criterion of a venereal ulcer is, that, instead of healing like another fore, it spreads and grows worse, unless where mercury is administered. If under the use of this medicine the fore shows a disposition to heal, there is little reason to doubt of its being venereal.

Though chancres, under proper treatment, soon put on a healing appearance; yet, in some cases, owing perhaps to the patient's constitution, or the peculiar virulence of the matter, they will spread, become phagedenic ulcers, and destroy, not only the glans, but even the whole penis. As this never happened to any patient who had been under my care, from the commencement of the disease, I am inclined to think it is owing either to improper treatment or neglect.

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Some authors think that these corroding chancres are owing to the peculiar acrimony of the matter by which the infection was communicated; but to me this matter appears doubtful. I have found these chancres, even where they had destroyed a part of the penis, yield to a proper treatment as readily as any other. That the matter which produces the lues may possess different degrees of acrimony, I will not pretend to deny; but that this will not account fairly for its effects on different habits, is presumable from what happens in other diseases. Twenty patients inoculated for the small pox with matter taken from the same person, shall each of them have the disease in a different degree, and to some one of them it shall prove fatal.

OF THE TREATMENT OF CHANCRES.

The first caution which I shall give concerning chancres, is, to keep them easy,
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and free from all irritation. The cure of a chancre may be greatly retarded by walking, riding, or violent exercise of any kind. These not only tend to fret the sore, but to increase the inflammation, and promote the absorption of the virus, to diffuse it more quickly over the system, and to render the disease both more dangerous and difficult of cure.

The next caution concerns the patient's mode of living. There is no occasion for starving a patient during the cure of a chancre; but some restraint should be put upon his appetite. No person should indulge in wine and a luxurious diet, during a course of mercury; otherwise he will not only retard the cure, but endanger a hemorrhage, by keeping up too great a plethora, or fulness of the vessels.

An important rule with regard to the treatment of chancres is, to keep them clean. This alone would go far to prevent all the mischief done by what are called corroding chancres. The discharge
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from a wound acts as a kind of balsam, and promotes the cure; whereas the matter thrown out by a chancre is generally of an acrid nature, and corrodes the parts with which it comes into contact. The more frequently therefore this matter is removed the better.

I have often found the penis so corroded by these eating chancres as to be almost destroyed. In such cases I order the sores to be washed several times a day with milk and water a little warm, applied by means of a syringe; and, when washed, to be filled with dry lint. After the lint has stayed in for some hours, and has become moist by absorbing the matter, I order it to be taken out, the sores again washed, and the lint to be applied as before. By this treatment, and the use of mercury, I have always been able to stop the progress of any corroding chancre that came under my care, and I have reason to think it always might be done.

To a patient who has got a chancre my first advice is, to keep it clean. This he
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can easily do by means of a fyringe, or taking water in his mouth, and holding it till the chill is off, then pouring, or spouting it, on the fore with as much force as he can bear. The part may afterwards be dried by pressing it gently with a soft rag. I never apply any healing salve to a chancre; it will always heal of itself, provided a sufficient quantity of mercury is thrown into the system. Should it be healed by any other means, the consequences might be dangerous.

When the chancres are dried up suddenly, there is always reason to dread some bad consequences. Instead of skinning over the chancre, and making the patient believe he is cured, a practice but too common, I generally endeavour to keep it open, especially when it seems disposed to heal quickly. I think it is safer practice not to use any escharotics, as they tend to heal the chancres too soon, and to excite buboes. When the chancres seem disposed to spread, I generally order them to be sprinkled with calomel, which
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is one way of throwing mercury into the system.

On the very first appearance of the chancre I begin to throw in the mercury in whatever form is most agreeable to the patient. If he prefers a pill, I order him to take two grains of calcined mercury, made into a pill with crumb of bread, evening and morning. If his mouth is not sore, in a few days, he may take two pills at night and one in the morning; and, if these do not excite some degree of salivation, two may be taken morning and evening.

I seldom find more than four grains in the day necessary to make the mouth sore, and, after it has been made sore, one grain or two a day will generally be sufficient to keep it so. I say keep it so; for whatever boasting quacks may pretend, if the mercury does not make the mouth sore, and if the soreness is not kept up for some time, the cure is not to be depended on.

Should the pills gripe or run off by stool, it will be necessary to correct them by adding the quarter of a grain of opium

to each pill. If the bowels are so tender as not to retain them even when corrected, the mercurial ointment must be used in their stead. It is fortunate for those who cannot take mercury by the mouth, or whose bowels will not bear it, that it can be administered by the skin, with equal, if not greater effect.

The patient may begin with a dram* of the ointment every day, which is to be rubbed into the inner side of the thigh with a warm hand before the fire. Should the skin become inflamed and tender, the part must be changed; and, if the patient is not able to rub it in sufficiently himself, he must employ some other person to do it for him. If the ointment is pure, it will almost entirely disappear; but, if the mercury is adulterated, it will leave a quantity of black stuff on the skin that will not disappear by any degree of friction. The quantity of ointment may be gradually increased to two drams a day: One half to be used at night, and the other in the morning.

* In the apothecaries ounce there are eight drams.

It is impossible to ascertain beforehand the exact quantity of ointment that will be necessary to perform a cure. It ought, however, to be continued till the symptoms disappear, and for some time longer, as it is better to go a little beyond the mark than to leave any remains of the disorder in the system. It is seldom we can trust to fewer than thirty or forty drams; and, in many cases, double that number will be necessary, before the symptoms disappear.

Though the mouth ought to be kept tender for some time, it is not the sore mouth that cures the disease; that is only a mark of the system's being impregnated with the medicine. Under these circumstances, if the symptoms disappear, we have reason to conclude that the patient is cured; but, for the greater security, the medicines ought always to be persisted in for some time longer.

Though a chancre will generally produce a pox; yet, if the preceding course is duly persisted in, this will seldom be the

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case; at least I have seen few instances of its having happened. I must therefore conclude, that when a pox is the consequence of a chancre, it is, generally speaking, either the fault of the patient, or of his physician; as this dreadful malady may in most cases be prevented by proper medicines, duly persisted in, during, what I call, the chanced state. Improper treatment, or neglect, during this period of the disease, does most of the mischief.

OF THE PHYMOSIS AND PARAPHYMOSIS.

When the foreskin is so contracted, that the glans cannot be uncovered, the disease is called a phymosis; and, when the contraction is formed behind the glans, so as the skin cannot be brought forward, it goes by the name of a paraphymosis: Though, generally speaking, these symptoms accompany a venereal taint, yet they may both exist where there is no infection of that kind; but, when this is the case, they are not so dangerous.

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I have seen the phymosis in such a degree, where there was not the least symptom of infection, that it was necessary to lay open the prepuce, to enable the patient to pass his urine. This patient had symptoms of the gravel, and such a continual itching in the point of his penis, that he could not refrain from rubbing it. This seemed to be the cause of the contraction, which was so great, that he could not pass one drop of water without using a knitting-needle to remove the fœculent matter that stopped up the passage.

These parts are so differently formed, in different men, that some may be said to have a natural phymosis; while others have the reverse. I have seen the foreskin so long, that above three inches of it were amputated, in order to discover the glans: In others, the glans never is covered, but remains exposed during life. Neither of these is attended with any considerable degree of inconvenience, unless in a diseased state. When inflammation occurs, in such a construction of

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the parts, strictures are more likely to be formed, and are likewise with more difficulty removed, than in patients where the prepuce moves easily over the glans.

There is a species of phymosis, owing to construction, which I have found it necessary to remove, though not accompanied with any disease: I mean, where the frenum adheres to the glans from the bottom to the top. This not only impedes the business of generation, but, when disease takes place, it proves highly inconvenient, as the simple operation of separating it from the glans cannot then be performed, on account of the inflammation and swelling: Nor can the glans be completely uncovered while this adhesion remains.

Cases of paraphymosis likewise occur without infection. A feeble old man had drawn back the prepuce behind the glans, and not being able to return it, was suffered to remain in this situation for above a week, though daily visited by a country surgeon. Notwithstanding a considera-

ble degree of inflammation and swelling had taken place, I was able to remove the complaint, without an incision, in less than a quarter of an hour. Had the stricture continued much longer, a mortification must have ensued; yet the patient was never apprized of his danger*.

I have known some young men bring on a violent paraphymosis, by acting on a wrong principle. One who had pulled back the skin, and kept it there till it could not be returned without making incisions on both sides, said he did it on purpose, to keep the glans cool. In this case, though the stricture was removed, yet the glans was never completely covered, and the foreskin remained thickened, which,

* Boys frequently bring on a disorder similar to this by slipping rings over the glans: Not being able to bring them back, a violent inflammation ensues, which cannot be removed, unless the ring is cut or broken, a thing not easily effected when it is deep sunk in the flesh. The boy, either from fear or shame, is generally deterred from making his situation known till the case becomes extremely dangerous.

in all probability, will be the case during the patient's life.

Though every method is to be used to keep the glans clean by injections, and cool by fomentations, poultices, &c. ; yet no attempt should be made to draw the skin forcibly back, till the inflammation has abated ; otherwise, in all probability, a stricture will be formed behind the glans, which will be more dangerous and difficult to remove than the former.

A phymosis frequently occurs in gonorrhœa ; but the most dangerous is that which arises from a chancre concealed under the prepuce. This, if neglected, will not only keep up the inflammation and thickening of the prepuce, but will corrode the glans, and even the body of the penis, so as totally to destroy the powers of generation, and of connubial happiness.

As a phymosis from a venereal cause is always accompanied with inflammation, our great aim must be to remove that, or to prevent its running too high. To effect

fect these important purposes, the patient ought to avoid all violent exertions, to live temperate, or rather low, to bleed, and use cooling purges, with emollient applications to the parts affected. The genitals should be suspended in a proper bandage, and the penis frequently soaked in warm milk and water: The glans ought likewise to be cleaned, by throwing up some warm milk and water with a syringe between it and the prepuce several times a day.

Where these things are duly persisted in, the inflammation may generally be kept under, and in time removed; but, if neglected, and the inflammation suffered to run on, much mischief may ensue. Most of the cases which have come under my eye, where the penis was materially injured, belonged to this class, and the injury had been occasioned either by the improper conduct of the patient, or the inattention of those who had the care of him.

A man of an inflammatory habit, and very irregular in his mode of living, while afflicted with a virulent gonorrhœa, went to a feast in the country, where some athletic games were celebrated: He excelled in running, wrestling, and playing at football. Not contented with coming off conqueror at all of these, he must likewise be the hero of the bottle, to accomplish which he sat up all night, and, according to the vulgar phrase, laid all his companions under the table. The consequence was a violent inflammation, which did great injury to the parts, and had nearly cost him his life.

For the consequences of such conduct, men have themselves only to blame: But sometimes the Faculty are in fault. A few days ago I attended an operation, which evinced the danger of suffering chancres to lie concealed under the prepuce. A young man who had been eight months under the care of a surgeon, and, during all that time, had been swallowing mercury

cury for the cure of a phymosis, was so far from getting better, that he grew daily worse. Night and day he was racked with extreme pain, till at length, worn down to a shadow, he was advised to apply to me.

Convinced that his pain was occasioned by chancres lurking under the glans, I desired a surgeon to lay open the prepuce to the very bottom of the glans, when all that appeared of this part of the penis was about the size of a common pea. The patient, in less than a fortnight, without taking one grain of mercury, was perfectly well. Had this operation not been performed, the young man must have been totally deprived of his virility, and probably of his life. This is not the only time I have seen the operation attended with equal success.

Whenever a patient finds a phymosis prove obstinate, and is tortured with pain, he has reason to suspect that some bad work is going on under the prepuce. It is then time to take further advice; and,
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if an incision is recommended by a man of experience and observation, it ought to be performed without delay. I am no friend to operations where they can be avoided; but in such cases delays are dangerous.

I am inclined to think, if due attention were paid to fomentations, poultices, emollient injections, &c. incisions would seldom be necessary; but people are very apt to neglect things that are in their own power, and trust to medicine, which they think possesses a specific virtue to remove this complaint, under whatever form it may appear. This, however, is a great mistake: The parts of generation are often destroyed where immense quantities of mercury have been taken.

If, after all endeavours, the prepuce cannot be drawn back, and if livid-coloured spots should appear on the outside, the foreskin should be immediately cut asunder, and the ulcers laid open. Many people think the very name of an incision implies mutilation; in this case,
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however, mutilation seldom takes place, but from the neglect of incisions.

The paraphymosis, during the state of inflammation, must be in all respects treated as the phymosis. The prepuce must, if possible, be brought over the glans, by pulling it forward with the hand, and, at the same time, compressing the glans, and pushing it backwards with the fingers. This operation will be greatly assisted by the use of some oil or soft liniment.

To lessen the inflammation, low diet, bleeding, soft poultices, and emollient fomentations, are to be used in the same manner as for the phymosis. In both cases I have always experienced the greatest advantage from the application of leeches: Nor do I recollect to have seen any bad consequences from them.

Should all attempts to bring the foreskin over the glans fail, and there is danger of a mortification taking place, it will be necessary to make incisions quite through the folds of the prepuce, in order to prevent a strangulation and consequent

quent mortification of the part. In some cases of strangulation, the glans absolutely drops off, and the patient is cured by an effort of nature without an operation.

I am inclined to think that most, if not all, the baneful consequences arising from the paraphymosis, might be prevented, by a sufficient attention to the disease in its first stages. Were the patient careful to avoid cold, hard drinking, and violent exertions, during the inflammatory state, he would seldom have occasion to regret the mangling and maiming which may afterwards be necessary to save his life.

I have dwelt the longer on these symptoms because they are rather slightly passed over by most writers on this subject; and likewise because I have seen more mischief occasioned by neglecting them, than any other symptoms of the venereal disease. These occur in the early stages of the disorder, and the *novus* in venereal practice suffers them to run on, till they become not only more than a match
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for his skill, but sometimes sufficiently formidable even to the most experienced veteran of the Faculty.

It is necessary to observe, that where symptoms of syphilis prevail, which is generally the case both in the phymosis and paraphymosis, it will be proper to administer mercury in the same manner as is recommended under the treatment of Chancre.

CHAP. V.

OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF CURE.

MANY medicines have been recommended in the cure of lues venerea, some of which have been deemed specifics; but none of them, except mercury, is entitled to that appellation, or has stood the test of time. This medicine may be truly called a specific. When duly administered in the lues venerea, it will be found almost infallible. When mercury fails in making a cure, it is either owing to its being badly prepared, or improperly administered. A cure is not to be expected from the use of mercury, after the parts necessary for carrying on the functions of life have been destroyed. These cannot be restored by mercury, and
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the patient must die. I have been consulted for a man the half of whose face was eaten away by the pox, and part of the brain laid bare. No one would blame mercury if it did not succeed in such a case.

When, by repeated poxes, the constitution has been destroyed, and the powers of life exhausted, mercury cannot be expected to restore them; but while there is a constitution to work upon, this medicine will do wonders. I have known it succeed even where a consumption, arising from a venereal taint, had made great progress; and Mr. Bell says, he has seen the asthma, rheumatism, epilepsy, and lunacy itself, when induced by the venereal taint, yield to mercury.

It is now a common practice to administer mercury as an alterative. This manner of taking mercury must meet the wishes of most patients; but, to use an old saying, there is reason to fear "it is shutting the door while the thief remains in the house." It is a pleasant thing

thing for a man to hear that he may go about his business, may eat and drink what he pleases, go abroad in all weathers, and be radically cured of a confirmed pox.

The delicate beau, who would not for the world have his breath smell, will grasp at a method of cure without affecting the mouth. Such a method may succeed now and then, but I would not advise any one to trust to it. Till the mouth is affected we can never be certain that the mercury has entered the system; and, unless the system is saturated, the effects are seldom permanent.

I do not mean to recommend the old and justly exploded practice of exhibiting mercury, so as to raise a violent salivation. This was productive of many bad consequences, and is by no means necessary. All the purposes of mercury may be answered in a much milder way: I mean, by a gentle salivation; or a moderate degree of soreness of the mouth, being kept up for a considerable length of time.

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If man could keep a medium he would be perfect ; but this is not in his nature : He flies from one extreme to another, and is equally wrong in both. This has been strictly the case with regard to the exhibition of mercury. Many constitutions were ruined by pushing it too far ; and now effects equally hurtful are produced, from its being too sparingly administered. We are therefore to follow a middle course, and, if possible, to avoid the bad consequences arising from either of the extremes.

All attempts to ascertain the precise mode of operation of mercury, in the cure of lues venerea, have hitherto proved abortive : Nor would it be of much importance were it known. To establish the character of a medicine, it is sufficient to know, that, exhibited in a given quantity for a certain length of time, it will remove a disorder, which, without it, would prove destructive to the patient.

There is no standard by which we can fix the exact quantity of mercury necessary

fary for effecting a cure. The difference of constitutions is such, that what will cure in one case will not be sufficient in another; besides, there are many other circumstances, as age, sex, climate, constitution, situation in life, and such like, that must be taken into consideration in the administration of mercury.

Mercury is, notwithstanding, the most certain medicine with which we are acquainted. Even the bark is not so sure to succeed in intermitting fevers as mercury in the cure of the venereal disease: But the success of both depends on the mode of exhibition. Bark may be taken for a twelvemonth without curing an ague; yet, the same quantity taken in the course of one month will remove the disease.

The same rule holds with regard to mercury: Its effects cannot be estimated by the quantity given, without attending to the time in which it was administered. Indeed this rule applies to most medicines. If the patient begins with small doses,
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even of poisons, he may use them till they lose their effect, so as hardly to have any influence on the constitution.

Mercury, as a mineral, or taken in its crude state, is almost inert: If it acts at all as a medicine, in this state, its action depends chiefly on its weight and fluidity. Its virtues as a medicine must therefore depend on the modes of preparing it. These, indeed, are manifold; but, as my practice is confined to a very few, I shall only take notice of those, and shall add a few observations relative to the modes of preparing, and of administering them in the different stages of the disorder.

The preparations of mercury chiefly employed by me are, the ointment, the calcined mercury, the mild muriated mercury, the calomel, and the corrosive sublimate: But, as I do not mean to instruct my readers in the chymical processes for preparing medicines, but to recommend those already prepared; all I have to observe is, that they should be careful to purchase them from men of reputation,

as no art affords more opportunities of sophistication than chymistry.

Even the crude mercury is seldom to be obtained pure. It possesses the power of dissolving other metals, and keeping them suspended; for which reason it ought always to be purified before it is prepared into any form of medicine: But, supposing the mercury to be pure, even the most simple preparation of it is apt to be improperly made. Both the common pill and the ointment are prepared merely by trituration; but, as their whole virtue depends on the complete separation of the globules, unless the trituration is continued for a very considerable length of time, the medicine is good for nothing*.

Though the mercurial ointment possesses many advantages over any other

* I am convinced that no mode of preparing mercury is preferable to simple trituration; but, to separate the particles of this mineral sufficiently by trituration, especially in a dry form, would require more labour than I fear any chymist will be disposed to bestow upon it.

preparation of mercury; yet the mode of applying it is so troublesome and disagreeable, that most patients wish to avoid it. No other mode of application however has yet been thought of, which effectually answers the same purpose. For this reason we must continue the use of the ointment, till time or observation shall discover a better mode of throwing mercury into the system.

One of the greatest inconveniences attending the administration of mercury is the effect it often has on the stomach and bowels. The bowels of many patients are quite unable to bear the mercury in such quantity as is necessary to cure the disease. Indeed, when mercury runs off by stool, it is very apt to disappoint the expectations of the physician; and the quantity of opium necessary to correct this tendency, is often so great as to render the patient stupid and uncomfortable. Mercury will, no doubt, sometimes affect the bowels, even when used externally; but this is not near so apt to happen

as when the medicine is taken by the mouth.

Though the mercurial ointment has many advantages, and will succeed in most common cases; yet, in obstinate venereal affections, I never trust to it alone. I have seen nodes of long standing yield to the calcined mercury, after an immense quantity of the ointment had been applied without any apparent benefit. A patient who had lost a great part of the *genitalia* told me, that, by the advice of an eminent physician, he had used above sixty drams of mercurial ointment, without any benefit; yet this gentleman was perfectly cured by the corrosive sublimate, accompanied with the Lisbon diet drink, in less than six weeks, and continues well to this day. I had reason, however, to suspect, that he had not done justice to the ointment; being a dissipated man and a very irregular liver.

Though the corrosive sublimate possesses great powers as a medicine, it is
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not so much in use as formerly. The taste is highly disgusting, and it is rather hurtful to the stomach and bowels. Where these effects can be obviated, it is an excellent medicine, particularly in venereal affections of the skin. The best way to prevent its hurting the stomach or bowels is, to accompany its use with some soft decoction made of farinaceous substances, as the decoction of sarsaparilla, or what is called the Lisbon diet drink.

The most common preparation of mercury now in use, for the cure of the venereal disease, is calomel. Though inferior to the calcined, or the muriated mercury, yet, in common cases, it seldom fails to perform a cure. Being perfectly insipid, it excites no nausea, and may be given, even to infants, with great safety. As it is a cheap medicine, there is less danger of its being adulterated than those which are ten times the value. It does not however follow, that calomel is never adulterated, though it might be im-

prudent here to mention the modes in which it is done.

I know no venereal taint that will not yield to one or other of these preparations, when applied in due time : But there are some auxiliaries, which, though they will not cure the disease, may nevertheless be of use, as either aiding the operation of the grand specific, or preventing its doing injury to the stomach and bowels. The chief of these are, antimony, guiacum, sarsaparilla, mezereon, and opium.

Guaiacum has been highly extolled for the cure of lues venerea ; but, since the powers of mercury were better known, it has lost much of its reputation, and is now used chiefly as an ingredient in the Lisbon diet drink. Some pretend to have had experience of its good effects in ulcers and blotches of the skin ; but never having used it alone, I cannot vouch for its effects ; nor would I advise any one to trust to it for a cure, unless when accompanied with mercury.

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Sarsaparilla has also been said to have cured the venereal disease. It is given in powder, extract, and decoction. The last of these is the most common form in which it is administered, and is generally found to answer the best. I will not assert that it has any considerable effect on the cure of lues venerea; but I think it is friendly to the stomach and bowels; and some think it proves serviceable where mercury is found to have too great a tendency to run off by the mouth.

Of mezereon I can say little, never having used it but in combination with the two former articles. It is, however, an active, pungent medicine; and, when combined with things of a milder nature, may no doubt have its use. The root and bark are both employed, especially the latter, which is by far the most active part*. It is generally supposed to be an ingredient in Velno's Syrup; but this

* A decoction of the bark is said to have proved successful in the cure of ulcers in the throat.

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being sold as a nostrum, I can say nothing about it. It is likewise believed to have entered into the composition of Dr. Kennedy's Decoction, which is now supposed to have been nearly the same as the Lisbon diet drink: To which, judging from its effects, I should think a little mercury, under some form, had been added.

In a decoction which I have long used, as an accompaniment to mercury, all these ingredients are combined, and I think form a better medicine than can be extracted from any one of them separately. I have occasionally used antimony in the crude state; but, as this gives the decoction a very dirty appearance, of late I have added to each quart of the decoction a tea-spoonful of the antimonial wine, more or less, as the patient's stomach could bear.

Opium has likewise been recommended as an aid to mercury, in the cure of lues venerea, and some have gone so far as to say, that it possesses powers as an antisyphilitic. I have not, however, been able
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to discover them : All the use I have ever found in opium was from its sedative quality, in preventing the mercury from running off by the bowels. When the bowels are too irritable to retain mercury, it will not cure the disease. In this case opium may act as an auxiliary, by detaining the mercury in the system.

OF THE PROPER REGIMEN DURING A COURSE OF MERCURY.

The success of mercury is often frustrated by an improper regimen. Few men have sufficient resolution to break off their former habits of living, while under a course of mercury. They will take the medicine, but cannot refrain from their usual luxuries. I have often seen the cure protracted to twice the usual time, when no other reason could be assigned but the patient's luxurious manner of living.

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As any one stimulus may counteract another, why may not the stimulus of wine counteract that of mercury? I do not mean that a patient under a course of mercury is to live too low: Neither do I approve of very copious evacuations prior to the patient's entering on such a course; nor indeed of any at all, provided the patient is not of a full or inflammatory habit. When that is the case, bleeding and purging may be necessary, as well as other evacuations. As far as my recollection goes, I think the cure of lues venerea goes on more slowly in fat than in lean patients.

Though the patient is not to be starved under a course of mercury, yet there are some things that will disagree with the stomach, and ought therefore not to be used: For example, all raw vegetables, and whatever is apt to turn sour or rancid on the stomach, ought to be avoided. When the mercury is rubbed in, these cautions are less necessary; but at all times crude, acid vegetables, used
freely,

freely, are injurious to the stomach and bowels.

Few things are more injurious to a patient under a course of mercury than exposure to cold. In a mild climate I should think there was no occasion for any confinement, under a course of mercury; but with us, who have all the seasons in a few days, and often even in one day, this is a matter of the greatest importance. Patients get well under every kind of treatment, but circumstances of a very untoward nature are often occasioned by cold. I am fully convinced that one half of the medicine generally used for curing the lues venerea would succeed, were patients confined to the house during a course of mercury*.

* I am sufficiently aware that many patients cannot keep the house while they are using mercury for curing the lues venerea; but these patients must lay their account with many inconveniences, and those sometimes of a very serious nature. Indeed most of the bad consequences imputed to mercury, are, in my opinion, owing to taking cold. Some speculative writers have thought otherwise; but a long series of observation has convinced me that fluxes, fevers, and even madness, may be produced by cold under a course of mercury.

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It has already been observed that one of the most disagreeable effects of mercury is its tendency to run off by the bowels. No doubt this may be, in some measure, corrected by opium; but as few patients like to take that drug, I would again beg leave to recommend a due attention to warmth. While a sufficient degree of perspiration is kept up, mercury will seldom fall on the bowels. No sooner, however, is this evacuation checked, than the bowels are affected. All the patient's food and drink ought to be a little warm, and rather of easy digestion. When I recommend warmth, I do not mean that the patient is to be kept in a profuse sweat. This, instead of promoting, would retard the cure, and weaken the patient to no purpose.

Few things are of more importance, during a course of mercury, than to regulate the patient's clothing. If linen is worn next the skin, it is not only cold and chilly; but, when moistened by the perspiration, it becomes damp; and the moisture is taken up by the absorbent vessels

fels which open on the skin. It would be a good rule, if every person labouring under lues venerea were to wear flannel next the skin during the whole time of the cure.

It is not only necessary, during a course of mercury, to avoid every thing that is highly stimulating, as hot spices, high-seasoned dishes, and such-like; but also all violent exertions of bodily strength, as running, wrestling, hard riding, &c.: Nor is tranquillity of mind less necessary. All the bodily functions may be disordered by violent passions; and when that is the case, the most powerful medicines will not have their proper effects on the system.

OF BUBOES.

Buboes may arise from different causes; but we mean only to treat of the venereal bubo: This is generally seated in the
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groin, and is attended with swelling, pain, and inflammation of the part. The true syphilitic bubo is commonly preceded by a chancre on the glans or prepuce, though a chancre is not necessary to the production of a bubo: It is sometimes, though seldom, the first symptom after impure coition. The bubo is generally single, though sometimes both groins are at once affected.

There is no occasion to describe the whole absorbent system to explain the theory of buboes. It is sufficient to say, that every part of the body, both external and internal, is replenished with absorbent vessels, whose open mouths take up more or less of every fluid that is applied to them. These vessels carry the venereal poison into the system, and serve likewise to convey its antidote.

Whether the bubo arises from an immediate absorption, without any previous local eruption, or from an absorption from chancres, or a virulent gonorrhœa, the symptoms are nearly the same. Some, indeed,

indeed, suppose that the bubo may arise from the poison being conveyed from the mass of blood, when universally tainted with the infection ; but this opinion is by no means well founded. From whatever cause buboes proceed, they commonly hold the following progress :

A small hard tumour is felt in one or both groins, accompanied with some degree of pain, though not acute ; this tumour gradually increases, till it has arrived at maturity. When matter begins to be formed, the bubo becomes very painful, and sometimes excites a slight degree of fever, which subsides when the suppuration of the bubo is completed. The size of buboes at the time of their suppuration is very different ; some of them are not larger than a walnut, while others exceed the bulk of an hen's egg. The suppuration of the bubo will be quick, if it is attended with much pain ; but, if not accompanied with great pain, its progress will be slow.

Buboes, in their first stage, may generally be dispersed ; by which much trouble, pain, and inconvenience to the patient, will be prevented. But this method of treatment is, by some, believed to be dangerous : They suppose that a bubo is an effort of nature to carry off what they call the morbid matter of the disease ; and that, by discussing it, the venereal poison is repelled, and thrown into the system. On this supposition, it was formerly deemed good practice always to promote suppuration, and bring the bubo to discharge matter as soon as possible. But this practice is not founded on sound reasoning, and is by the more enlightened practitioners rejected.

In some of the most obstinate venereal cases which have fallen under my observation, the buboes have suppurated, and sometimes in succession ; but I could never perceive that the suppuration tended to promote the cure, or to render mercury less necessary. Besides, the sores occasioned by the breaking or
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laying open of the buboes, prove often extremely troublesome and difficult of cure. For these reasons, I always, in the first instance, attempt the dispersion of a bubo.

To effect this purpose, evacuants are in the first place to be used; as bleeding, purging, vomiting, &c. I have known one brisk purge carry off a bubo *, and local bleeding has often had the same effect. This may be done by cupping or leeches: I generally prefer the latter. The sores, indeed, occasioned by the bite, are sometimes slow in healing; but this is a slight inconvenience, when compared to the advantages derived from the bleeding. In full and inflammatory habits, the patient may lose blood from the

* When a bubo disappears in a few days, the quack imputes it to his great skill; and when it proves obstinate, which will happen under the best treatment, the physician is blamed, when he is not in fault. Random cures often establish the reputation of medicines which possess no real virtues, and fill the pockets of pretenders to physic, who are totally ignorant of that science.

arm; but, in general, local bleeding succeeds better. Blood taken from or near the part affected, will relieve the patient more, while it weakens him less, than a much greater quantity taken from the general mass.

Some local applications ought to accompany the bleeding and purging, which are to be repeated according to circumstances. I generally use repellent poultices, made with Goulard's extract, or the sugar of lead; though some prefer the following ointment, as being less troublesome:

Take of mercurial ointment, one ounce;

Goulard's extract, fifty drops;

Powder of opium, one scruple: Mix them together according to art.

A little of this ointment may be rubbed on and near to the part affected, several times a day.

While these attempts are making to disperse the bubo, the patient must use an abstemious regimen, avoiding all strong
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and fermented liquors; also food of a heating or stimulating nature. The body must be kept gently open, and all violent exertions are to be avoided, as riding, running, wrestling, and such-like. This rule is of more importance than is generally imagined, as muscular motion of every kind tends to increase inflammation.

During these attempts to disperse the bubo, the use of mercury is not to be omitted: It may be administered nearly in the same manner as for the chancre; only that, in this case, some prefer the ointment to every other preparation of mercury. Their reason for giving it the preference is, that it can be applied near to the parts affected, and in such a manner as to be taken up by those lymphatic vessels which carry it immediately to the diseased glands*.

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* The quantity of mercury necessary for the resolution of a bubo will be in proportion to its obstinacy; but care must be taken not to hurt the constitution. Mr. Hunter recommends half a dram of mercurial ointment, made with equal parts of quicksilver and hog's-lard, to

If the means used for dispersing the bubo should not succeed, and the inflammatory symptoms run high, so that the suppuration seems unavoidable, they should be discontinued, and proper medicines applied for promoting the suppuration. For this purpose, emollient fomentations and ripening poultices are proper: These may be softened with sweet oil or fresh butter, and applied to the bubo evening and morning. If it is found necessary to hasten the suppuration, raw onions may be bruised, and mixed with the poultice.

To promote the suppuration, the patient may indulge in a more nourishing diet, and drink a moderate quantity of wine. If the pain is very great, to alle-

be used every night. If the mouth is not affected in six or eight days, and the gland does not readily resolve, two scruples, or a dram, may be applied every night; and if there be no amendment, more must be rubbed in: In short, if the reduction proves obstinate, the mercury must be pushed as far as can be done, without raising a violent salivation.

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viate the irritation and procure rest, he may take from half a grain to a grain of opium in a pill at bed-time. This will likewise tend to hasten the formation of matter, and to shorten the inflammatory stage.

When the bubo has arrived at maturity, and matter is formed, the common practice is to open the abscess with a lancet, or by means of caustic; but it often happens, when the bubo is opened by these methods, that it is not perfectly ripe; but when nature is left to make the opening in her own way, it always happens when it ought, and generally heals much sooner, and with less inconvenience, than when opened either by incision or caustic.

As soon as the abscess is broken, the patient ought gently to press out the matter, endeavouring, at the same time, to enlarge the orifice. If the discharge is thick, and the suppuration has not been tedious, there will be every reason to expect that the abscess will soon heal;

but if the sore discharges a thin, sharp ichor of a greenish colour, and its lips are ragged, and of a loose, flabby appearance, the cure will prove both tedious and troublesome.

After squeezing out the matter, a little of any digestive ointment may be applied to the sore, on a bit of lint or soft rag, and the whole covered with a soft poultice. This may be renewed twice a day, pressing out the matter very gently, before it is applied. The sore ought to be kept clean by washing it, every time the poultice is renewed, with milk and water a little warm. The time that may be necessary for healing the bubo cannot be ascertained, as it depends entirely on the patient's constitution.

It sometimes happens, after several weeks trial of the above method of treatment, that the sores grow worse, and the patient's health and strength decline. In this case it will be necessary to discontinue the mercury, and to put the patient on a light and nourishing diet, with an allowance

ance of three or four glaffes of foud red port wine in the courfe of the day. The bark muft alfo be taken in as large quantities as the ftomach will bear it.

I have feen a patient fo much weakened by the ufe of mercury, that he was not able to walk, or even to ftand; yet, by going into the country, living on a light nourifhing diet, and drinking the decoction of farsaparilla, with equal parts of new milk, he got well in a few weeks. If any fymptoms of the diforder remain after this courfe, it will be neceffary to refume the ufe of the grand fpecific, mercury, as foon as the patient is able to bear it.

Though mischief is no doubt done by pushing the mercury too far, yet I am fully perfuaded that ten times more proceeds from leaving it off too foon. The patient tires of taking medicine, and the doctor, willing to indulge him, gives him permiffion to defift before the bufinefs is completed. Of this, I am forry to fay, one meets with too many proofs to queftion the fact.

OF VENEREAL ULCERS.

A venereal ulcer may appear on any part of the body, and is a sure sign that the poison has pervaded and infected every part of the system. These ulcers are usually preceded by blotches, which appear first about the roots of the hair, or on the forehead, where they go by the name of a *corona veneris*. They gradually spread all over the body, and are attended with itching and some degree of pain. A venereal ulcer, though not very painful, quickly becomes deep, and even reaches the bone, which it renders foul. It discharges a thin, foetid, corrosive matter ; and cannot be cured, but by a complete and well-conducted course of mercury.

It is of importance to distinguish the venereal from the common ulcer, as mistakes in this matter may have serious consequences, both with regard to the character of patients, and the method of cure.

cure. If the patient has reason to suspect that the ulcer may be venereal; if its margin is hard, the surrounding skin preternaturally red, and the bottom covered with a white slough; there is ground to believe it is venereal. But the most certain conclusion may be drawn from the use of mercury: If the ulcer either appears, or grows worse during the use of mercury, it is probably not venereal; but if it gets better under a proper course of mercury, there is little doubt of its belonging to that class.

Though a chancre, which is a venereal ulcer, generally appears on the genitals, yet those ulcers which proceed from a contaminated state of the whole system seldom affect the parts of generation. Indeed, there is no part of the surface of the body where they occur so seldom. This clearly proves, what we have before asserted, that the chancre is a local affection, and affords no proof that the system is contaminated. Almost every
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chancre may be traced to a local application of the venereal poison ; and when the poison can be arrested in its progress, the system will not be generally affected.

Though venereal ulcers are often preceded by blotches, yet this is not always the case : Sometimes they come without any previous eruption ; and at other times a number of small pimples rise upon the skin, previous to the appearance of an ulcer. Nor is it uncommon for a slight degree of itchiness only to be felt on the part, before the ulcer is perceived.

Venereal ulcers are generally pretty tractable, and heal almost as soon as other sores, unless there is some fault in the patient's constitution. When this is the case, they often prove very obstinate ; and sometimes even bid defiance to the great antidote mercury. The habits, where venereal ulcers prove most obstinate, are, the scrofulous, and persons deeply affected with the scurvy. As both these habits are very common in this coun-

country, it is no wonder that venereal complaints should so often prove tedious and difficult to cure.

There seems to be some affinity between the pox and scrofula, that has not yet been defined: Where the system is deeply affected by the latter, the former will always be found obstinate. I have known even a bubo, in such a habit, continue for years before it could be cured, notwithstanding the liberal use of mercury; and sometimes ulcers, which seem to rise from a venereal taint, and will not yield to mercury, may be cured by sea bathing, which is almost a specific in scrofula.

Venereal ulcers often affect the throat. Sometimes an ulcer in this part is the first symptom of the disease; and, being mistaken for a common sore throat, it is often improperly treated. The ulcer generally makes its appearance on the glands called *amygdalæ*, from their resemblance to almonds, with an erysipelätous or reddish colour in the parts adjacent, and a
buffy

buffy colour at the bottom. It is not, however, confined to these glands, but sometimes attacks the *uvula*, tonsils, roof of the mouth, and other adjacent parts.

It is of the greatest importance to be early acquainted with the nature of these ulcers, as they often spread rapidly ; and, if not checked by mercury, they will corrode the parts on which they fix, and destroy the organs of deglutition. Where there is the least reason to suspect that ulcers of the throat may proceed from a venereal taint, the patient ought immediately to have recourse to the best advice.

The first step towards the cure of an ulcer in the throat is, to ascertain its cause. One often meets with ulcerous throats in married women, which have been under the care of the family apothecary for many months, without any progress having been made towards a cure ; the attendant either not suspecting the real cause of the complaint, or not daring to inquire into it. The husband, who takes care
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to get cured himself, and leaves his wife to find out her disorder, and to get cured as she can, is at once cruel and unjust.

A venereal ulcer sometimes affects the womb. This too is apt to be mistaken, and treated as a cancer. As it cannot be examined, like the fore throat, the best and safest way is to consider it as venereal, and to treat it accordingly. If it should not yield to mercury and its accompaniments, the cause becomes doubtful. I would then recommend sea bathing, or the waters of BAREGES, as most likely to perform a cure.

In whatever part of the body a venereal ulcer appears, its cure must be attempted by mercury. Where this fails, there is reason to suspect either that the ulcer is not truly venereal, or that it has assumed a different character, and requires a different mode of treatment. In this case, the patient's strength must be restored by nourishing diet and generous wines. The use of tonic medicines, as

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the bark and steel, will likewise be proper; and above all, we would recommend cold sea bathing.

A variety of ointments, &c. have been recommended in the cure of venereal ulcers, but we lay no great stress upon them. The chief business is to keep the sore clean, and to throw in the antidote as freely as the patient's constitution will bear it. A list of the most approved medicines for local application will, however, be given in the Appendix, with directions for using them.

OF VENEREAL BLOTCHES, AND OTHER AFFECTIONS OF THE SKIN.

It has been observed, that venereal ulcers are often preceded by blotches. They, as well as the ulcer, prove that the system is contaminated, and that the poison has diffused itself through the whole frame. There is no part of the body exempt
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from their attack, though they appear more frequently on some parts than on others. Some ingenious attempts have been made to account for this; but they are more specious than solid.

Though blotches are sometimes a primary symptom, yet I have more frequently found them a secondary one, and generally the effect of cold, when the body was charged with mercury, and the disease not totally subdued. The eruptions, in this case, have a very unseemly appearance; but there is reason to believe, if the disease were not thrown upon the skin, that the consequences might be worse.

A few years ago, a patient of mine, who had for some time been under a course of mercury, refused to take it any longer, because it made his mouth sore, and was attended with other inconveniences: Contrary to my advice, he went down to the sea-side; and, as it was the season for bathing, like many others, without any precaution, he plunged
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headlong into the water, and swam about for his amusement. How often this was repeated I do not know; but, on his return to town, he came to me with a face so covered with blotches, as hardly to resemble the human figure. As these had every mark of venereal blotches, I was induced to put him under a fresh course of mercury, and to continue it till they disappeared.

At present I have a gentleman under my care, who, during the severe frost of last winter*, was taking mercury. I could not persuade him to keep the house: He not only went abroad, but was very irregular in his manner of living. The consequence was, an universal eruption, or blotches all over, but particularly on the face. They are now going off by the use of mercury; but at one time they exhibited the appearance of a confluent small pox, a little after the turn, so exactly, that any one, at first sight, would

have supposed the patient was just recovering from that loathsome disease. From this resemblance I am inclined to think the disease took its name.

Venereal blotches are not attended with much pain; they excite, however, an itchiness, which makes the patient restless and uneasy. They often attack the points of the fingers, especially under the nails, and, when suffered to proceed, a separation takes place, and the nails as well as the cuticle fall off: Indeed, whatever separates the cuticle will take off the nails. When they attack the parts covered with hair, they not only prevent its growth, but frequently it falls off.

There are other cuticular eruptions, as the herpes, &c. which may be mistaken for the venereal, by people not accustomed to see these things. Herpetic eruptions generally appear in a circular form, from whence they get the name of ring-worms. They are broader than the venereal blotches. Besides, the herpes is more local than venereal eruptions, which often

cover the greater part of the body. But they are best known from the circumstances of the case, and the patient's manner of life.

These, like other venereal affections, generally yield to a proper course of mercury; though sometimes it is found necessary to call in the aid of antimony. This may either be done by administering Plummer's pill, or by adding such a quantity of the antimonial wine, or of crude antimony, to the Lisbon diet drink, as will be directed in the Appendix.

Some have supposed, and not without reason, that the corrosive sublimate, in affections of the skin, is preferable to the other preparations of mercury. In obstinate cases, where the other mercurial medicines have failed, it has often, in my practice, succeeded: Indeed, I have seldom known it to fail. It ought, however, to be administered with care; and it will be more safe, if accompanied with the decoction of sarsaparilla.

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Some recommend mercurial ointment, or lotions, to be applied externally ; but I am no friend either to wet or greasy applications to the skin. When the eruptions are hot or uneasy, I treat them in the same manner as the erysipelas, by sprinkling them with fine flour or hair-powder. Should the eruption, however, prove very obstinate, an appropriated ointment may be applied, as directed in the Appendix.

OF THE VENEREAL NODE.

The venereal virus, when suffered to remain in the system, fastens at last on the bones ; and, what is very remarkable, it commonly seizes on the most solid parts of the bones, and where they are most thinly covered with flesh, as the shin-bones, the bones of the head, of the arm, &c. Nor is it less worthy of remark, that wherever

it fixes there it remains, and is never known to leave the part till it is destroyed, or the poison conquered.

The true node, which is a hard tumour rising on a bone affected with the venereal virus, does not appear at an early period of the disease; but, in cases where patients are exposed to cold, or in damp situations, swellings of the muscles, ligaments, and tendons, will appear soon after the infection has been received into the system. These however are not to be considered as genuine venereal nodes.

In the early stage of the disease, a venereal-node occasions little pain, and is, for that reason, often neglected: But as the tumour increases, so does the pain, till it sometimes becomes quite excruciating. I had a patient, who was so tormented with a node, that he used to get out of bed, almost every night, and sit for hours together with his leg immersed in a pail of cold water. In such cases, some recommend an incision to be made

made as deep as the bone for the whole length of the node ; but few patients will submit to this operation, and I have always succeeded without it.

Sometimes these pains are mistaken for the rheumatism, but they may easily be distinguished : The rheumatism generally affects the joints, while the node rises in the middle of the bone. Besides, the rheumatism often changes its place, and even shifts from one joint to another ; but the node, as has been already observed, is permanent.

The cure of nodes evinces the wonderful powers of mercury as a medicine. That it should be able to pursue the enemy into his last retreat, and, when he has seized on the most solid parts of the system, which he is sure, if neglected, to destroy ; I say, that, in this case, a few grains of mercury should dislodge the foe, and restore the patient to perfect health and soundness, is a thing scarcely credible.—Yet it is so certain, that I do not recollect ever to have seen mercury

fail in the cure of a node ; and, even where the bones have become carious and have exfoliated, the patient has received a complete cure, and has not only enjoyed perfect health himself, but been able to transmit a sound constitution to his progeny.

In the cure of nodes, it is of the greatest importance to apply the antidote as soon as possible : Delay not only renders a greater quantity of mercury necessary, but endangers the bone. I do not recollect to have seen a bone become carious, or an operation necessary, where the mercury had been applied in due time and quantity.

The mistake is generally made in this way : The patient puts himself under what he thinks proper care ; the symptoms disappear, and he is declared to be cured. Some months, and sometimes years, afterwards, a slight pain is felt, and perhaps some degree of swelling appears on the shin-bone : This is supposed to be rheumatic, and is of course neglected, till

till the poison has rendered the bone foul, and perhaps carious.

Every person who has had the lues venerea, ought to be on his guard with respect to the appearance of nodes; and, if he feels pain, or perceives any swelling on those parts of the bone where nodes are known to rise, he ought to have immediate recourse to the antidote. Some, in this case, prefer the ointment, and even rub it on the part affected; but this I consider as bad practice. The ointment will have the same effect if rubbed on the sound parts, and the friction is apt to hurt the diseased one. The ointment, however, in this case, is not my favourite remedy; at least I never trust to it alone. I have seen great quantities of the ointment used for the discussion of a node, with little or no apparent benefit; where pills, made of the calcined mercury, effected a complete cure. In nodes of long standing, more mercury will be necessary, than in any other syphilitic affection,

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As the true node is never an early symptom, there is reason to suspect that it is owing either to improper treatment or neglect.—A married gentleman, either to save his money or appearances, put himself under the care of an apothecary in the environs of London, who, after some months attendance, told him he was cured. Some time after, he came to me, with a large node on one of his legs, for which I put him under a course of mercury. He had sent his wife into the country, to live with her friends, till he should get well ; but unfortunately she had carried the infection along with her. Finding herself unwell, she applied to a country apothecary, who, being a mere gossip, blabbed the matter among her friends : They took the alarm, abused the husband, and had very near effected a separation. I advised him to bring her up to town, and put her under the same course of medicine as himself. In a few months they were both well, and have since had several fine children.

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Any man may have a misfortune, or be off his guard at one time or another. When this happens, and he has reason to think, or even to suspect, that he has injured his partner, he ought immediately to acquaint her with his situation, and to take the same advice for her as for himself; otherwise he may have reason to repent of his conduct as long as he lives. She will impute all her future complaints to this disease, and will never believe that she has been thoroughly cured.

When the matter of the venereal disease falls upon the tendons, muscles, or ligaments, so as to produce tumours, which have a resemblance to nodes, we must depend entirely on mercury for the cure; and, if ulcers should appear, they must be treated in the same manner as other venereal ulcers.

OF EXCRESCENCES ABOUT THE SEAT.

We have already taken notice of those warty excrescences which occur in gonorrhœa, and of their proper method of treatment : They are always local, and require only topical applications. But the fleshy excrescences, which appear about the seat, generally mark a confirmed lues. They show that the whole system is contaminated, and will only yield to a complete course of mercury.

Sometimes these excrescences appear along with the blotches in other parts of the body : Nor do they unfrequently fall into ulcers which discharge a very offensive matter. These ulcers are not always superficial : They often run to a considerable depth, and I have once and again seen them degenerate into fistulous sores.

These excrescences may be cut off with a knife, or eaten away by caustic ; but, unless the cause is removed by a
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mercurial course, duly persisted in, they will return with as much virulence as before. If once subdued by a proper course of mercury, they are seldom known to appear again on the same parts. But it does not follow, when the excrescences disappear, that the poison is eradicated: The disease will often break out again with great virulence. When this happens, recourse must again be had to the grand specific. Whatever aid may be derived from other medicines; they are only to be considered as auxiliaries. In this way they may have their use; but whoever trusts to them for a radical cure, in a confirmed lues, will be miserably disappointed.

When the surfaces of these excrescences discharge matter, some employ astringent lotions to heal them, lest the matter should be absorbed, and diffused over the system. I am no great friend to repellents in any case; they are apt to deceive the patient, and to make him believe he is cured, when the case is otherwise. But to cleanliness

lines I can have no objection. It has already been recommended in the treatment of venereal ulcers; and when these excrescences discharge matter, it should be frequently washed off with a piece of sponge dipped in milk and water, and dry lint applied to absorb it. When sinuous ulcers appear, they should be cleaned by injecting the milk and water with a syringe.

EFFECTS OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE ON THE EYES AND EARS.

All the organs of sense are liable to be affected by the venereal disease, but particularly the eyes and ears. Some of the most obstinate inflammations of the eyes that I have met with, arose from a venereal taint. A repelled gonorrhœa is by some supposed to be the cause of this species of ophthalmia. But the most dangerous affection of the eyes is that which proceeds from a confirmed lues.

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This, though not attended with much pain or inflammation, frequently ends in total blindness.

When an inflammation of the eyes succeeds to a sudden stoppage of the discharge in a gonorrhœa, means should be used to restore the running. This may be done by stimulating injections frequently thrown up the urethra by means of a syringe. The manner of preparing and using these injections, as well as stimulating bougies, will be taken notice of in the Appendix.

The treatment of this is nearly the same as the common ophthalmia. The inflammatory symptoms must be taken off by bleeding, purging, and other evacuations. If leeches are used, they must be applied as near to the eyes as can be done with safety. The same observation applies to blistering-plasters. Slips of blistering-plaster may be applied on the temples, or behind the ears, and kept running by converting them into issues.

I have known some people, who were apt to have their eyes inflamed, reap great benefit from wearing threads of worsted, smeared with the issue ointment, behind the ears.

What is called the chronic ophthalmia is often a symptom of the pox, and can only be cured by mercury. In this case, mercury must not only be given in as large quantities as the patient can bear, but must be continued for a considerable length of time—some say, for eleven or twelve weeks; but this must be regulated by its effects, as well as the nature of the disease; for the lues venerea induces different disorders of the eyes, any of which may end in blindness. Sometimes the patient is affected with a gutta serena; at other times with a cataract; and not unfrequently, with what is worse than either, a suffusion of the humours, or an opacity of the cornea. A cataract may be extracted, and sometimes mercury will cure a gutta serena; but when the hu-
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mours become confused, or the cornea loses its transparency, very little is to be done.

Besides throwing mercury into the system in general, some local applications are recommended. When the eye-lids are affected, they may be frequently anointed with the mercurial ointment; or, what is more active, with an ointment composed of three or four parts of hogs-lard to one of the *unguentum citrinum* of the common dispensatories. This may be made stronger or weaker, as the parts can bear it. Some recommend bathing the eyes five or six times a day, with a weak solution of the corrosive sublimate: This must likewise be adapted to the patient's feelings.

There is one affection of the eye, which, though truly venereal, is sometimes mistaken for a *fistula lacrymalis*. It is seated in the interior angle of the eye, and is attended with an almost constant discharge of tears, which keep trickling down the cheek. These tears are prevented from finding their way into the

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nose through the lacrymal sac, by the viscid matter that closes up what are called the *puncta lacrymalia*. This matter may be squeezed out, by pressing the part with the finger.

I had a patient some time ago, who had long laboured under this complaint: He was attended by a sea-surgeon of no great experience, who had not the least suspicion of what was the real cause of his patient's disorder, and proposed curing him by the operation for the *fistula lacrymalis*. As I took it to be a venereal symptom, I advised him to try a course of mercury, by which the complaint was entirely removed. If I remember right, Mr. Bell mentions this as a new case. Indeed I have seldom met with it in practice, and do not recollect to have seen it in any book except his own.

The ears, as well as the eyes, are sometimes the seat of the venereal disease; and, in some instances, it destroys the sense of hearing altogether. When the external parts of the ear only are affected, it is not

so dangerous ; though, in some instances, the external passage is so stuffed up with a dry, scurfy matter, as to obstruct the hearing. But the greatest danger arises from the venereal disease fixing on the bones. When this is the case, a discharge of ill-coloured matter ensues, which is followed by an exfoliation of the bones, and a total loss of hearing.

It is observed, that no symptom of the venereal disease proves more obstinate than deafness. External affections of the ear may be removed by a course of mercury ; and so may deafness, occasioned by an ulceration or swelling of the eustachian tube, where it opens into the throat ; but when the disease has fixed upon the membrane or bones of the ear, no advantage is to be expected from mercury, or any other medicine with which we are acquainted. The virus, however, may be totally removed from the constitution by the use of mercury, though the local symptom of deafness still remain.

CH A P. VI.

OF INFANTS, MOTHERS, AND
NURSES.

SOME speculative writers have asserted that a child cannot bring the venereal disease into the world with it, unless it contracts it in the birth : I am sorry to say, however, that proofs of the contrary are too numerous to admit of a doubt*. A man must have had little
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* We have frequently had occasion to mark the resemblance between the great and small pox, especially with respect to the mode in which the infection may be communicated. But we have the most unequivocal proofs of pregnant women communicating the small pox to the infant in the womb. Children have not only been born marked with the small pox, but with pustules on the skin ;—these pustules have come to maturity ; matter has
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practice, who has not seen children born with symptoms of the lues venerea, which could not be contracted in the birth. Fortunately, indeed, when an infant comes into the world, with the most unequivocal symptoms of this disease on its body, it can be cured. The great specific can be administered to infants as well as to adults; and, what is very remarkable, the former often bear it better than the latter.

An infant born with the venereal disease is commonly very delicate. Its flesh is soft, and its joints are feeble. But the most certain marks of the disease appear on the skin, which is generally covered with blotches, resembling those of the venereal kind in adults. Sometimes, in-

been taken from them for inoculation, which has produced the genuine small pox; and these again have produced others, &c. No theory can set aside facts: They are stubborn things; and will force their way, in spite of the most ingenious reasoning. No argument can be brought against a mother's infecting a *fetus in utero* with the *lues venerea*, that does not apply with equal force against her communicating the small pox.

deed, the child appears as if it had been flayed, or had the cuticle taken off with scalding water : In this case, the fingers and toes seem as if the nails had been taken off along with the scarf-skin.

Occasionally the disease does not appear till some days after the birth, when the symptoms are somewhat different from the above ; although, in general, there is a resemblance. The eruptions are at first local, but afterwards, if not prevented by mercury, they spread so as to cover a great part of the body ; nor are instances wanting, where they discharge a thin ichor of a very acrimonious nature.

When the disease does not appear till some time after the birth, its first symptoms are generally perceived about the seat and parts adjacent. These are covered with irregular blotches, of a reddish cast, rising somewhat above the surface of the skin, and covered with moisture : Though, in other parts of the body, the eruption has a crusty appearance,

ance, and often falls off in dry scales. On the forehead, eye-lids, &c. it generally assumes the form of scabby excrescences.

For curing the venereal disease in infants, some recommend giving mercury to the mother or nurse : As the mother generally has occasion for medicine as well as the child, there can be no impropriety in this practice ; but we would not advise any one to trust to it alone for completing the cure. The infant ought to take mercury at the same time with the mother, regard being had to the difference of age and constitution. It is worthy of remark, however, that an infant will require more mercury to affect its mouth, in proportion to its apparent strength, than an adult. Indeed I have always found, in exhibiting mercury for the hydrocephalus, that it was difficult to excite a salivation by any quantity that one could venture to give to a child.

The skin of an infant is so tender, that it can hardly bear friction with the mer-

curial ointment; otherwise this mode of application would be a relief to the stomach and bowels. But as the dose is very small, and the taste can be disguised by sugar, there is no difficulty in administering the mercury internally. The fourth part of a grain of calomel, or of calcined mercury, may be rubbed with a small quantity of sugar, and given in a little pap three or four times a day.

Some give as much of the common mercurial pill, as contains the fourth part of a grain of mercury, four times a day. Others prefer the *mercurius alkalifatus*, which they administer in the dose of half a grain. Whichever of these is given, it must be duly persisted in, otherwise no benefit is to be expected. After the child has taken mercury four or five weeks, it may be discontinued for five or six days, but not longer, as the action of the mercury should never be suffered entirely to cease during the whole time of the cure. How long that may be must depend on circumstances; but the medicine should
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not be discontinued when the symptoms disappear, otherwise they will return. If the constitution will bear it, the mercury may be administered, with occasional intermissions, for two or three months.

Every person possessed of humanity will agree with me in thinking, that a mother, who brings an infant into the world infected with the venereal disease, ought to suckle it herself: It is a cruel thing to communicate this disease to an innocent nurse, who, in all probability, will give it to her husband, by which means the contagion will be transmitted to a family who may never get free from it. Though people in genteel life generally get cured of this malady, it is not the case with the lower classes of mankind; they can seldom obtain good advice; and when they do, they are not in a condition to follow it.

When the mother cannot suckle the child, which, I admit, is sometimes the case, it ought to be brought up by the hand. Though I by no means approve
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of this mode of nursing, yet the life of an infant is, in no case, to be put in competition with that of the mother of a family. I say *life*; for the cases are by no means uncommon, where the suckling an infected child has proved fatal to the nurse, and destructive to her whole family.

It is common for genteel families to have a nurse examined by a physician before they employ her to suckle a child. There can be no harm in this; but it is more necessary that the infant should be examined before the nurse undertakes the tender office of giving it the breast. Indeed, I think, every nurse, before she engages to suckle the child of a stranger, especially in a great city, ought to have a certificate under the hand of a skilful physician, that it is clean.

Though I do not know a more iniquitous act, than wilfully to communicate an infectious disorder to an innocent family; yet I suspect, in such a case, that our law gives no redress; and, if it did,

did, what compensation can be made for ruining the constitutions of a whole family? Nor does the evil stop here: I have known the infection from one child communicated to several families. Some children have two or three nurses, and give it to them all; while they, in their turn, give it to others, and sometimes to their own. So there is no saying where the mischief may end.

Some people think that all the mischief may be prevented by giving medicine to the nurse, without letting her know for what it is intended. I never knew this succeed. A nurse will never do justice to medicine, if she thinks she ails nothing, and does not know for what purpose it is given; and, if she is told, it is ten to one if she continues to suckle the child any longer. Indeed, it is more than probable, that, by fretting and vexation, she will lose her milk, or turn it into a poison; so that the poor infant, instead of one enemy, has two to combat.

On these and other considerations, I would advise, where there are signs of infection, and the mother cannot give suck, that the infant should always be brought up by the hand. Some recommend this method of nursing till the child is cured, and then to give it the breast. But to this plan there are several objections. Few children will suck after they have been two or three months without the breast; besides, it is almost impossible to ascertain the time when the infant is completely cured. Many nurses have been infected by giving the breast to children, after the doctor had announced them clean.

But in these matters guilt does not attach to parents alone; nurses are often to blame: Nor can parents be too careful in investigating the characters of those women whom they employ to suckle their offspring. An innocent woman may communicate the infection by not knowing she is injured; but when a woman, who has reason to suspect that she has

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received the infection, conceals it, and undertakes to suckle a sound child, I hardly know any punishment too severe for her. This, however, to my knowledge, is no uncommon practice.

Married people, or people about to be married, cannot be too cautious in their conduct respecting this disorder. What a dreadful inheritance is the lues venerea to transmit to posterity! yet many men are wonderfully inattentive to this matter. I have often been applied to for a quick cure, as the party was going to be married. In this I always refused to be concerned; knowing that the patient would either take the medicine too quickly, or leave it off too soon; both of which might have serious consequences. But there are abundance of undertakers for this disease in London, who will make no scruple of promising a complete cure in three days.

No doubt, an apparent cure may be performed in three days; but woe be to him who trusts to it. It is an easy matter
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to dry up a sore; but, if the poison has been taken into the system, it is only *shutting the door while the thief is in the house*. It would be difficult to ascertain the extent of the mischief done by pretenders to quick cures: Indeed, when the system is infected, the thing is impossible. Nor is it easy to settle the precise time at which the poison has, or has not, entered the system.

As the pox generally proceeds from a local affection, some trust for a cure to burning out the part with caustic. It may sometimes succeed, but the risk is too great. Should the poison have entered the system, this painful operation will be of no use; the infection will show itself in one shape or another, and the cure will be more difficult than if it had been taken in time. Even in pregnant women the antidote is not to be neglected; otherwise the mother and child will both be sufferers.

When it is necessary to give mercury to pregnant women, it ought always to be

be done with caution; should it run off by the bowels, there will be danger of an abortion. I have known one drastic purge cause an abortion, and cost the woman her life; indeed, when an abortion is occasioned by violent means of any kind, the mother's life is in danger. Mercury ought therefore always to be administered to pregnant women in form of ointment. This mode of application will effectually cure the disease, without endangering the life of the mother or foetus.

One common consequence of venereal infection lurking in the habit, is abortion. This should make breeding women very careful to avoid the contagion, and when they have the misfortune to catch it, no means should be left unessayed to get thoroughly cured. By frequent abortions, women not only lose their progeny, but ruin their health. A woman is more hurt by one abortion, than by bringing several children to the full time: Besides, every abortion paves the way to another,
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till at length the constitution is ruined. I hardly recollect one instance of a woman who had had this misfortune often, that was not broken down by some particular disease, or laboured under a train of nervous affections, which were more than sufficient to render life completely miserable.

Abortions from this cause generally happen about the sixth or seventh month; and we have reason to believe they are more numerous than is commonly imagined. Mr. Bell, of Edinburgh, considers the lues as one of the most frequent causes of abortion; and adds, that a well-conducted course of mercury will seldom fail to prevent it. The mode of administering mercury to pregnant women has already been pointed out. The course, however, must be continued for a considerable length of time; otherwise the success will be doubtful. In this disease nothing is done, while any thing is left undone.

CHAP. VII.

OF SOME IRREGULAR SYMPTOMS.

THOUGH few diseases are better understood, or have had their symptoms more accurately described, than the lues venerea; yet it sometimes appears in such a questionable shape, that the most experienced practitioner may mistake it for some other malady. This indeed seldom happens, unless where the disease has lodged long in the constitution, or has assumed a character different from its real one.

It is of great importance to know when a disease proceeds from a latent venereal taint; as, in such case, no medicine except mercury, can be depended on for a cure. One often sees symptoms where

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mercury would seem to be highly improper, yet they will not yield to any other medicine. When the real cause of these symptoms is not suspected, the patient is suffered to linger out a miserable existence till he dies.

In dubiis suspice lues—in doubtful cases suspect a pox—was a maxim with the great Dr. Boerhaave, and ought to be so with every practitioner in physic, especially in a great town. When symptoms appear, for which an obvious cause cannot be assigned, the physician ought to make the strictest inquiry concerning the patient's character and manner of life; particularly, if at any time he has had the venereal disease? what were its symptoms; and how were they treated, &c.? If he has reason to suspect a lurking lues, the specific must be administered in such manner as is best suited to the patient's constitution.

When doubtful symptoms appear, it will sometimes be difficult to say whether they proceed from the remedy, or the
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disease. The only way in which this can be ascertained, is to try if the symptoms will yield to mercury. If they grow worse under the use of this medicine, it ought to be discontinued; but when a cough, hectic fever, or other dangerous symptoms, seem, in any measure, to give way to mercury, it ought certainly to be continued till they disappear.

Affections of the skin, which pass for scorbutic, are not unfrequently of the venereal kind; as the dry scurfy chaps on the feet and palms of the hands, the thickening of the skin in several parts of the body, &c. All these require the use of mercury both externally and internally. The best external application is the unguentum citrinum, or yellow ointment, which must be reduced by hog's-lard, as directed in the Appendix. I know no better medicine for internal use, than pills made of calcined mercury.

Sores, which assume a cancerous appearance, are sometimes occasioned by the venereal poison lurking in the habit;

and some are of opinion, that it will produce the real cancer. Be this as it may, these fores require the use of mercury; nor will fores of a venereal kind yield to any other medicine. Sometimes, indeed, external applications are necessary; nor can the fores be healed without the use of caustics and escharotics of the most active kind.

Pains which resemble the rheumatic, are often occasioned by a venereal taint lurking in the habit; and some think those sharp, flying pains, which affect the jaws, neck, and parts adjacent, arise from the same cause. When these pains are excruciating, it will be necessary to administer opiates along with mercury for their relief. Some, in this case, recommend Dover's powder, which is far from being an improper medicine. It acts both as an anodyne and sudorific.

It has been alleged, that fevers of the intermittent kind have sometimes been induced by the venereal poison lurking in the habit. I can only say, that these
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have not occurred in my practice; nor do I think it follows, that a fever was excited by the venereal poison because it is cured by mercury. If, however, there is ground to suspect that the intermittent fever proceeds from this cause, the antidote ought certainly to be administered.

Whether intermittents occur or not, there is no doubt that fever is often excited by the venereal poison. The fever which occurs in the early periods of the disease is symptomatic, and generally goes off with the buboes, and other symptoms, that gave rise to it. But the fever which comes on in the advanced periods, without any apparent cause, yet owes its existence to the venereal infection, is of an obstinate nature, and sometimes will not yield to any medicine.

This fever is generally accompanied with a quick pulse, loss of appetite, decay of strength, wasting of the flesh, colliquative sweats, and other symptoms of a consumption: Nor are anxiety, restlessness,

and extreme irritability, uncommon symptoms. Even here, where there is reason to suspect that the fever arises from the venereal contagion, the specific must be administered. It should, however, be given with the greatest caution, and discontinued if the symptoms grow worse, or the patient is unable to bear it.

What is called the alterative course must here be strictly observed, beginning with the very smallest doses, as half a grain, and enlarging them by degrees. If the fever abates by the use of mercury, and the sweats, &c. grow better, it ought of course to be continued. It may be assisted either by the Lisbon diet-drink, or the sarsaparilla in powder, a teaspoonful of which may be taken in a little of the patient's drink four or five times a day.

The patient's diet in this case must be light, but rather of a nourishing nature. Some recommend a milk diet; but, when the powers of digestion are weak, milk seldom agrees with the stomach. To
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asses' milk, however, I have no objection. This seldom disagrees even with the weakest stomach, and has the double advantage of serving both for food and medicine. It may be taken from a gill, evening and morning, to a pint, or a pint and a half in the day.

When the venereal disease has so far changed its nature, as to resist the powers of mercury in every shape in which it can be administered, I would advise the patient to discontinue its use for some time, to go into the country, take gentle exercise in the open air, and change his low diet for one that is generous and invigorating. This may be assisted by taking, three or four times a day, a teaspoonful of Huxham's tincture of the bark in a glass of generous wine.

When the patient has sufficiently recovered his strength and spirits, if there is any reason to suspect that the poison still lurks in the constitution, recourse must be had to mercury for its expulsion. But as this is a very difficult question to re-

solve, I would advise the patient, in this, and every doubtful case, to take the opinion of an able and experienced practitioner.

OF DISEASES WHICH RESEMBLE THE LUES VENEREA.

It is of great importance to be able to distinguish the venereal disease from others which bear a resemblance to it. Where due attention is not paid to this, great errors may be committed in practice. The medicines necessary for the cure of lues venerea will often do mischief when administered in cases which, though they may resemble the venereal, yet do not belong to that class.

Nor is the danger less, when, in cases truly venereal, the specific is omitted. I have often occasion to see patients, who had been told that their disease was not venereal, and had been neglected or tampered with, till their situation was truly de-

deplorable. It is certainly true, that many who pretend to cure this disease, do not know all the forms under which it appears in different patients. These indeed are various, and will sometimes deceive even the most experienced practitioner.

A disease can only be known from its symptoms, and even these will sometimes mislead an inattentive observer. It is the aggregate of symptoms which constitutes the disease, and not any single one. There is hardly one symptom of the venereal disease, which may not exist where the infection had never been received: But where all the leading symptoms are found, and the circumstances of the case concur to prove it is venereal, we may almost arrive at a certainty.

There are certain modifications, however, of the venereal disease, which, though they differ in some symptoms, are so similar in their effects on the system, that they require nearly the same method of treatment. These, in different

ferent countries, are known by different names; as the Yaws in the West Indies, Mal Anglois in Canada, and in North Britain, Sivvens or Sibbens. As this disorder has never come under my inspection, in any shape, I shall here insert Mr. Bell's account of it, who says he has had many opportunities of seeing it, and I believe him to be a man of candour and observation.

“ He says it never appears in the form of a gonorrhœa, and seldom at first in any form on the genitals, owing to the manner in which it is most frequently communicated. The infection being for the most part received by eating or drinking out of the same utensils with those labouring under the disease, it often appears at first in the throat, or some part of the mouth. In the mouth the sores have the usual appearances of venereal ulcers. This is likewise the case in the throat when the disease has been of some duration; but at first, and often for the space of several weeks, although the patient
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complains of a good deal of uneasiness in swallowing, and a constant hoarseness, there is nothing perceived upon inspection but a degree of tenderness, accompanied with an erysipelatous redness of the amygdalæ, uvula, and velum pendulum palati. If not prevented, however, by the use of mercury, ulcers at last form upon these parts, and commonly spread more quickly than venereal ulcers usually do in other parts of the body ; inasmuch, that the uvula and amygdalæ will sometimes be entirely destroyed in the course of a few days, and a degree of hoarseness and loss of voice produced, from which the patient never afterwards recovers.

“ It is particularly apt to affect the internal parts of the nose ; and when the sores penetrate to the ossa spongiosa, these soon become carious, and come away in small pieces along with the matter, which is always exceedingly foetid. When not prevented by mercury, the ulcers spread to the hard bones of the nose, and from these

these to the bones of the cheeks. In this manner the whole face becomes ulcerated ; for when these bones are affected, the contiguous soft parts likewise become soon diseased. It is not uncommon for these ulcers to attack the eyelids.

“ When the infection is not received by the mouth, the disease appears in a variety of forms in different parts of the surface of the body. When the virus has entered the system, the parts upon which it first commonly breaks out are the genitals, the parts contiguous to the anus, the anterior parts of the thighs and legs, the under part of the abdomen, the breast, arms, fingers and toes, and hairy scalp. It does not so readily fix upon the fleshy parts of the legs or thighs, or on the back. In some, the parts become covered with an infinite number of small pustules ; and, as they are itchy, the disease is at first often mistaken for the itch. This happens the more readily, from its prevailing almost entirely among the common people ; who, from want of cleanliness,

lines, frequently labour under itch; and so much is siccus confined to this set of people, that, excepting children, who are more particularly exposed to receive infection from servants, those in the higher ranks of life are scarcely ever attacked with it; at least, few instances of their being so have fallen within my observation.

“ This eruption, however, soon assumes appearances, which sufficiently distinguish it from itch; the skin, upon which it is seated, becomes thickened, and somewhat elevated, and acquires the characteristic mark of venereal blotches, a peculiar copper-coloured appearance.

“ The late Dr. Gilchrist, of Dumfries, in a paper upon this subject in the *Physical and Literary Essays of Edinburgh*, remarks, ‘ that these scabby eruptions are
‘ often met with on the scalp, forehead,
‘ inside of the thighs, groins, and parts
‘ contiguous. Inflammation and excres-
‘ cences about the fundament are fre-
‘ quent; and it sometimes appears in the
‘ form

‘ form of a herpes exedens, healing in one part, and breaking out in another.’

“ Some have small tubercles, or hard elevated knots, upon the face, arms, and breast, somewhat resembling small pox at the height, but of a red or copper colour, and accompanied with a painful degree of heat. If mercury is given early, these tumours gradually subside, otherwise they become large, and discharge a foetid, viscid matter, which forms into crusts or flakes, and, on their falling off, the parts beneath are red, tender, and in some cases in a state of ulceration.

“ Instead of this more numerous eruption, some are attacked with small inflammatory boils, which do not readily suppurate, but remain for a considerable time hard, and of a copper-colour, and at last discharge a thin, bloody ichor. These at first resemble the common anthrax, or carbuncle, but soon after bursting, they assume all the appearances of the true venereal ulcer.

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“ But the most characteristic symptom of this variety of syphilis, is a soft spongy excrescence, in size and colour resembling a common rasp, which is apt to appear on all such parts as either become ulcerated, or that are attacked with any kind of eruption; *sivvin* or *sibben* being in many parts of the Highlands the name of a wild rasp; and this being a very frequent symptom of the disease, is the cause of its being distinguished by this appellation. In some instances this spongy substance rises to a considerable height; nor can it be kept down by any of the common escharotics; for, although entirely removed, if the virus of the disease be not eradicated by the use of a full course of mercury, it soon returns to a greater extent than before; but as mercury is commonly given as soon as this symptom becomes evidently marked, the excrescence is seldom so much elevated as it otherwise would be.

“ These fungous productions are occasionally met with in every part of the
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body; but they are particularly apt to form on such parts as have become tender, whether from previous eruption, or from the cuticle having separated and come off from the skin beneath; a circumstance which sometimes takes place in this disease, and when to any considerable extent, always with much inconvenience and distress.

“ In the treatise which I have mentioned, Dr. Gilchrist observes, that this disease does not attack the large and solid bones, and very rarely any of the others. I have, however, seen several instances of the contrary, in which both the bones of the legs and arms have been affected; and it is by no means uncommon to find this disease fix upon the bones of the head. I have seen it indeed in every part of the body, and in every form under which lues venerea usually appears, except in chancres on the genitals. I have seen it produce sores resembling chancres on the lips, and on the nipples of nurses; and where an infection has
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been of long duration, I have known ulcers form upon the penis; but I have not known an instance of its producing chancres either in men or women from coition; owing, I imagine, to all who are attacked with ulcers upon these parts from this cause, avoiding venereal intercourse, which they very universally do, till a cure is obtained by a course of mercury. But although fibbens is not usually met with in the form of chancres upon the penis; this, as well as other parts of the genitals, are particularly apt to be attacked with such ulcers as appear from the virus having entered the constitution. In different instances I have known the whole penis and scrotum destroyed with it; but this has commonly happened from the patient having neglected too long to call for medical assistance, or from mercury being given in too small quantities.

“ These ulcers, like the usual form of venereal ulcers proceeding from the constitution

stitutional form of the disease, do not commonly produce buboes. This, however, is not universal; for buboes sometimes take place in fibbens, not only from the primary ulcers of the disease, as I have in more than one instance perceived in the arm-pit, from sores produced upon the nipple in nursing an infected child, but also from those which appear upon the penis and other parts of the genitals, from the virus having entered the system; and the appearance of buboes produced by fibbens, whether in their swelled or ulcerated states, is in every respect the same with that of the ordinary form of venereal bubo.

“ Syphilis, in whatever way the infection is communicated, is readily transmitted, as I have already had occasion to see, from parents to the foetus in utero, and this is particularly apt to happen in fibbens. Sibbens, therefore, proves a frequent cause of abortions, although in some instances children are born with it

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at the full time, and in a few it breaks out in the course of the first month after delivery.

“ In the treatment of fibbens, as of every variety of lues venerea, mercury is the only remedy upon which we can place dependance. Sarsaparilla, guaiacum, and mezereon, have occasionally proved useful; but we trust to mercury alone for a radical cure. The observations we have already had occasion to offer on the employment of mercury, apply with equal propriety to the treatment of every symptom of fibbens. It is therefore unnecessary to consider the subject farther at present; but, while we refer for this purpose to different parts of the preceding pages, I think it right to observe, that a greater quantity of mercury is in most instances required for the cure of fibbens, than we usually find to be necessary in the ordinary form of the disease. Relief is obtained with perhaps equal ease, and a stop may be put to the farther progress of the disease, by the

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same quantity that we employ for the common symptoms of pox ; but it is more apt to return if the medicine be not given in larger quantities, and continued for a considerable time after every appearance of infection is removed. When the disease has been of long duration, mercury ought to be continued for seven or eight weeks after every symptom has disappeared.

“ A practitioner of experience and observation, and who had many opportunities of seeing every symptom of sibiens, informed me, that mercurius sublimatus corrosivus frequently proves successful in the cure of the more inveterate symptoms of the disease, when the milder preparations of mercury fail. He gave it in the form of drops : Sixteen grains were dissolved in an ounce of water, with the addition of eight grains of crude sal ammoniac ; and of this ten drops were given three or four times a-day.

“ When ulcers in the throat and other parts do not readily yield to the use of
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mercury, we have recourse to caustic and escharotics, and they prove equally useful here, as in every variety of sore proceeding from lues venerea. In various instances they have been rendered clean, and brought into a healing condition, by fumigating with cinnabar, when they had previously resisted every other remedy.

“ The public, however, are equally interested in the prevention of this disease as in the cure of it ; particularly in those districts where it has long prevailed ; and with proper attention there is much reason to suppose that it might soon be eradicated. In some parts of Scotland this has already indeed been accomplished ; and the means by which it has been done are simple, and easily practised. They consist entirely in a due attention to cleanliness, and in preventing nurses and other servants from being employed, where there is the least reason to imagine that they are infected. In the choice of a nurse, this is a point of the utmost im-

portance ; for in fibbens, as in every form of syphilis, I have had many proofs of the disease being communicated by the milk alone ; and as this is almost the only way by which it has found access to families of rank, they are particularly interested in preventing it.

“ The chief difficulty which occurs to the prevention of this disease, proceeds from those who ought most anxiously to wish for it. The infected are so much afraid of a discovery being to injure their reputation, that they do all in their power to conceal it ; by which they are often prevented from taking mercury in that complete manner by which alone a cure can be accomplished. I know, however, that this anxiety for concealment may be removed ; and, with proper attention, that those poor people, who otherwise would fall victims to the baneful effects of the disease, may be easily induced to apply for medical assistance. The clergy have this so much in their power, that through their interference

ference the fibbens might soon be eradicated. In one parish this was actually done. The disease had spread to such an alarming height, that above three-fourths of the inhabitants were infected, and many of the more delicate, particularly young children and females, died under it. This had gone on for many years, when, by the exertions of the clergyman of the parish, it was entirely removed in the course of a short time. He went personally to every individual of his parish, and convinced them of the propriety of applying for medical assistance immediately on the disease breaking out, which they agreed to the more readily, from their being sensible that all of them had got the disease in the most innocent manner. In this way it was soon carried off, and by due attention to cleanliness, and avoiding all kind of intercourse with those whom they suspected to labour under it, the disease has now for a considerable time been entirely subdued. This has in some degree, indeed, been

the case in every district of Scotland where fibbens ever prevailed. In some situations it has been nearly eradicated, and in none is it now so frequent as it was some years ago. There is much cause therefore to hope, that by the superior attention to cleanliness, which of late years has prevailed among our common people, it will soon become everywhere unknown.

“ If the disease, as it prevails in Canada, is the same with the fibbens in Scotland; and from all that I have heard of it, there is no cause to doubt of its being so; the same method of cure will prove effectual, and the same means of prevention must be observed.”

I have inserted this article at full length, because it throws considerable light on the nature of the venereal poison, and the means of preventing its progress. Another reason is, that the fibbens prevails chiefly among a class of people, who, from their circumstances and situation, are either deprived of all

regular medical advice, or are obliged to put up with that of the very worst kind.

Mr. Bell seems to think, that this species of the venereal disease might be eradicated by due attention to cleanliness. I am entirely of his opinion ; but do not see why the advantages of superior cleanliness should be confined to one species of the venereal disease. I have already recommended it as the best preventive in every shape under which that disorder appears, and think a due regard to it would go a great length towards extirpating the contagion altogether.

The same author observes, that the clergy might be of great use in eradicating this malady, in which I likewise cordially agree with him ; but do not see why their usefulness should be confined to the extirpation of one disorder. It consists with my knowledge, that the Itch, and other diseases arising from neglect of cleanliness, may be extirpated in any parish by the exertions of the clergyman.

gyman. Of this I have seen instances, and therefore know it to be practicable.

But there is another disease which proves more fatal to mankind than the lues venerea, that it is in the power of the clergy almost wholly to disarm of its sting—I mean the small-pox. The clergy alone have it in their power to render inoculation universal, which would save the lives of many thousands of innocent babes, who annually perish in this country by the ravages of that baneful malady. Some of the clergy, to their immortal honour, have effected this in their own parishes; and it is to be hoped that many others will follow so *noble* an example. Though I think a clergyman cannot be better employed than in preserving the health and lives of those under his care; yet I do not mean to overload him so much as to recommend the drudgery of attending the sick: This might be both disagreeable and dangerous: But the pastor of a parish has, generally

nerally speaking, great influence over his flock, and may almost induce them to do what he pleases, merely by giving them good and wholesome advice.

It is observed, that the sibbens prevails chiefly among the lower class of people; but these people can seldom afford to have any good advice; for this reason the clergyman, who is always a man of reading and knowledge, ought to give them such instructions as will enable them to be their own physicians. The most ignorant peasant of that country where the sibbens prevails, knows how to cure the itch; but I will venture to say, that the one is as easily cured as the other. People are alarmed at the name of mercury, and think it requires to be administered with the greatest skill and attention. No doubt, mischief is done by administering mercury at random; but with common care and prudence, this will not be the case.

People of more zeal than knowledge are apt to think that those who suffer by
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the venereal disease deserve no commiseration, and ought not to be pitied nor relieved. Though this is an illiberal idea, yet it may have some foundation where guilt is connected with punishment. But this can never apply to patients afflicted with fibbens. Their complaints do not proceed from any illicit commerce, but are generally the effect of that intercourse in families, which must subsist among children, servants, and nurses, and which renders the choice of both the latter an object of considerable importance.

Some doubt if the fibbens is the same disease as the lues venerea, as they do not, in all their symptoms, exactly agree; be this as it may, their effects on the system are so similar, that we may venture to recommend the same mode of treatment, and have reason to believe it will seldom fail to accomplish a cure.

The different forms that this disease assumes, give reason to suspect that the poison has existed much longer among
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mankind than is generally imagined. At its first appearance in Europe, it bore a greater resemblance to the fibbens than to the lues as it now shows itself. If we can believe the first writers on the subject, this was the case. If it has changed once, it may change again; and, as the inhabitants of Europe live in a much more elegant manner, and are more attentive to cleanliness, than at the time this disorder first appeared, we have reason to hope that it will become milder. The change of living has almost banished the leprosy; and why may it not have the same effect on the lues? These two diseases do not differ so essentially from one another as some may imagine. The use of mercury in curing the leprosy, led to its application in the lues venerea.

C H A P. VIII.

SOME SINGULAR EFFECTS OF MERCURY ON THE MOUTH, BOWELS, &c.

THE effects of mercury vary so much in different patients, arising either from a peculiarity of constitution, or some morbid affection of the system, that, previous to the administration of this medicine, particular inquiry ought always to be made concerning the patient's habit of body, manner of life, &c.; otherwise some very unpleasant circumstances may occur in the progress of the cure.

A quantity of mercury that will not have the least effect on one patient, will throw another into a violent salivation, and even endanger his life. There is no rule by which we can judge, before-hand, of

of the effects that mercury will produce on any individual. The safest method, therefore, as has already been observed, is to begin with small doses, and to increase them gradually as circumstances may suggest. A physician, in many cases, must feel his way; and this is not more necessary on any occasion than in the exhibition of mercury.

It has been observed, that those who have their mouths soonest affected with the mercury are easiest cured. This is certainly true; but it is also true that some will receive a complete cure, where little or no salivation is excited. To effect this purpose, however, the system must be fully impregnated with the mercury; and its use should be continued for some weeks after all the symptoms disappear. This ought to be an invariable rule*.

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* An attention to this rule cannot be inculcated too often. I am at this moment called upon by a young gentleman, who, in a few days, intended to sail for the West Indies. About four months ago he applied to a surgeon, of some celebrity in this line of practice, for the cure

Though the lues venerea proves most obstinate in persons of a scrofulous habit ; yet the administration of mercury is more difficult where the patient is affected with a deep scurvy. I have met with several cases where it was almost impossible to cure the disease without endangering the

cure of a common chancre, who advised him to wash it frequently with Goulard's Extract, and rub in the mercurial ointment. In three weeks the symptoms disappeared, and he was considered as cured. He had occasion to go a pretty long journey into the country ; but before he reached the end of it, he was seized with a sore throat, and blotches appeared in several parts of his body. A practitioner of physic, in the town to which he went, advised him to go through a course of mercury. To this he agreed, and, during its use, the symptoms again disappeared. But, on his return to London, the blotches appeared again, and he complained of his throat being sore. Though, first and last, he has taken medicine for about seven weeks, yet it is evident he is not cured, and I have advised him to go through a fresh course of mercury, accompanied with the decoction of sarsaparilla. This gentleman is convinced if he had gone to sea after he was dismissed by his first attendant as cured, that he would have lost his life ; and I am convinced if he had married, which was likely to have happened, that he would have injured his wife, and had a rotten progeny, if any.—Such are the blessings of *hasty cures* !

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patient's life by an excessive salivation. I would therefore advise those who have been long at sea, and on their return have had the misfortune to contract this malady, to be extremely cautious how they use mercury; otherwise they may have cause to repent of their rashness.

I saw a remarkable instance of this some years ago, in a young man who belonged to the fleet, but was at that time on his way to his friends in the country, having been dismissed from an hospital as incurable. When I saw him he was almost in the agonies of death. His countenance was pale as ashes, his pulse feeble, and his voice faltering. But the most remarkable symptom was a continual dripping of blood from every outlet of the body. Though I say blood, it hardly deserved that name, for it was so thin as just to be perceivable upon a white cloth. I did not learn how long this discharge had continued; but it had reduced him from a remarkably fine young man, by all accounts, to a mere skeleton. I tried

to throw in astringents and cordials, but in vain. The powers of life were too far exhausted for medicine to take any effect.

All I could learn of this young man was, that he had been long at sea; that on his return to England he had the misfortune to be injured, and had been sent to an hospital. I neither know how he was treated, nor how long he had been ill; but from several cases which have since fallen under my observation, I am convinced that he owed his premature death to the improper use of mercury. Of this the following case will leave little room to doubt.

A young sailor, who had made four voyages, in succession, to the East Indies, and who was too complete a tar to pay any attention to his health, was, soon after his arrival from the fourth voyage, so unlucky as to get injured. He concealed his situation from his uncle, who was his guardian, till he was completely poxed. I was then consulted, and found it necessary to put him immediately under

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der a course of mercury ; but, not being aware of the state of his body, I had well nigh lost my patient. Before he had taken half the quantity of mercury necessary to cure his disorder, he was seized with such a violent discharge of saliva, mixed with blood, as required all my skill and exertions to check. It run in a continued stream from his mouth, so as to fill several wash-hand basins in the course of a day.

By the application of opiates and astringent medicines this discharge was got the better of, but not before the patient's life was in imminent danger ; and I am convinced, if it had happened at sea, or in any situation where he could not have had proper nursing, and every kind of medical assistance, he must have lost his life. He was indeed an irregular patient, and could not be induced to keep himself warm, even when the salivation was at the highest ; but I imputed the excessive discharge chiefly to the effect of mercury

on a habit deeply tainted with the sea scurvy.

When, from the patient's manner of life, or other circumstances, there is reason to suspect a lurking scurvy, every method should be taken to remove it, previously to his entering on a course of mercury. This may be effected by a vegetable diet, and the use of antiscorbutic medicines duly persisted in. It will, however, be necessary in such cases to administer those preparations of mercury which are least apt to affect the mouth, and to give them in very small doses.

Some with this view recommend the Plummer's Pill, which, being a combination of mercury and sulphur, is rendered very mild in its operation. But I prefer the corrosive sublimate in small quantities, which, while it is less apt to run off by the salivary glands than the others, is one of the most active preparations of mercury, and seldom fails to remove the lues when properly administered.

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When mercury runs too much to the mouth, it is common to have recourse to purgatives ; but these will seldom be found to answer the expectations of the practitioner. They weaken the patient, already too much exhausted, and seldom put a stop to the discharge. I would therefore, in preference to these, recommend opiates, and astringent medicines, to be applied to the parts affected in form of washes, gargles, &c.

Though opium may be employed as a gargle, it will be of more service taken inwardly. A sufficient dose of this soothing cordial seldom fails to take off the irritation and pain, so distressing in a profuse salivation, and to procure rest, so much wished for by the patient. A pill, containing from half a grain to a grain of opium, may be given evening and morning, or oftener, if the pain and restlessness make it necessary.

Washes may be made of an infusion of red rose leaves, tormentil root, willow bark, Peruvian bark, oak bark, galls, or

any other astringent vegetable. But what I generally employ is powdered borax rubbed up with honey, and held in the mouth; or it may be made into a wash by dissolving it in boiling water, and afterwards adding the honey. An ounce of borax and two ounces of honey to a pint of water is the usual proportion.

It has been common to administer sulphur to check a salivation; but this idea has originated in theory more than from practice. Though sulphur combined with mercury lessens its activity, it does not follow that it will have the same effect when taken into the system. I am inclined to think, if it has any effect at all, it is owing to its purgative quality, and not to its action upon the mercury.

A variety of medicines, combined with mercury, have been recommended to prevent its affecting the mouth; but as these only tend to lessen its activity, the same purpose may be answered by diminishing the dose. Where due attention

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is paid to this, and the patient is kept sufficiently warm, there will seldom be reason to fear his being thrown into an excessive salivation, unless his constitution is peculiarly irritable, has been broken down by repeated salivations, or is deeply affected with the scurvy.

When the saliva is mixed with blood, as in the case related above, and the discharge is very copious, the patient's strength must be supported with red wine and light nourishing diet; and he may take frequently from twenty to thirty drops of the oil of turpentine in a glass of cold water. In discharges of blood from any part of the body I have found this to be an excellent medicine.

Mercury sometimes occasions a discharge of blood from the bowels, as well as from the mouth. This symptom is not without danger, and ought, as soon as possible, to be removed. The patient's diet ought chiefly to consist of mild farinaceous substances, as flower boiled in milk, rice boiled or baked, animal jellies,

and such like. Opium may be given as recommended above, with the addition of from five to ten grains of gum kino to every grain of the opium. If the kino is not at hand, a tea-spoonful of the tincture of Catechu may be taken, in any liquid, three or four times a day, and a clyster of thin starch, with a tea-spoonful of laudanum in it, may be thrown up every night at bed-time, or oftener if it is found necessary.

Few things tend more to injure the constitution under a course of mercury than profuse sweating. On the old plan of administering mercury it was impossible to avoid this. The patient was shut up in a small apartment; his bed was placed by the side of a large fire, and often between two fires; while every method was taken to prevent, even the smallest particle of fresh air from having access to him. Profuse sweats will never affect the patient, if he is kept in a proper temperature. His apartment ought to be large, and he may go from one room
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to another, unless the weather be uncommonly severe, or his constitution very delicate. The most likely way to avoid taking cold is to keep the body in an even temperature, and never suffer it to be too much heated. In short, the safest way is, to avoid all extremes.

Should the patient, however, be seized with profuse sweats, he must not only be kept cool, but put on a nourishing diet, with a moderate allowance of wine, and take two tea-spoonfuls of Huxham's tincture of the bark in a glass of red port, three times a day. This medicine will be improved, by adding to every ounce of the tincture, a dram of the acid elixir of vitriol.

Mercury sometimes, though rarely, runs to the kidneys. When this happens, the patient must be kept warm, to promote the perspiration; and he may take such astringent medicines as have been already recommended in excessive discharges from the bowels or mouth.

CHAP. IX.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

PATIENTS who have been afflicted with the venereal disease, although they have received a complete cure, are apt to be alarmed at every trifling symptom which they think bears any resemblance to that malady. Under this impression I have known some go through a complete course of mercury for a pimple on the nose; and others ruin their constitutions, by swallowing drugs, sold by advertising quacks as infallible remedies for a disease under which they did not labour.

It is the misfortune of hypochondriacs to be continually haunted by one disease or another. If a person of this description has the misfortune to get poxed, he seldom loses sight of it, or leaves off taking
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medicine till his constitution is destroyed. A young man belonging to this class, after a slight infection, kept teasing me for above a twelvemonth, from a persuasion that his nose was daily growing thicker. At last I refused to see him, when he went to a quack, who indulged him in his whim, till he drained him of his last guinea, and then dismissed him for a fool.

Women are still more apt to be alarmed in this situation than men. Many of them believe that a person once thoroughly infected, can never be radically cured. Under this persuasion they impute every ach, pain, or pimple, to the venereal poison lurking in the system, and lead both themselves and husbands most miserable lives. Humanity should induce medical men to do every thing in their power to eradicate these hurtful notions. But this is, to my knowledge, not an easy task. The lady whose case was mentioned in a former chapter, made herself and husband both so unhappy,

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notwithstanding all I could say to her, that I advised her at last to go to the late Mr. John Hunter, and take his opinion of her case. He told her she was perfectly well. But even this did not fully satisfy her, till she brought forth at a birth, two of the most healthy babes I ever saw.

Women, however, are more apt to have relics of this disease lurk about them than men. Their constitutions are not so able to undergo a thorough course of mercury; neither have they so much resolution as men, to persist in its use for a sufficient length of time. It is here the female patient generally misses her cure. A few days ago a man brought his wife to me to see if I thought her perfectly cured. On asking some questions, I told him I had every reason to believe she was well; but, according to my custom, said she had better continue to take medicine for a few weeks longer, that no ground of suspicion might remain. At this she began to cry; said she had been
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taking mercury for above three years, and desired to know when she should have done taking it. On inquiry, I found what she said was true, but that she had never persisted in its use above three or four weeks at one time; but as soon as her mouth grew a little sore, she left it off, and when the symptoms reappeared returned to its use again.

I told her she might keep taking mercury for twenty years in that way, and not be cured: That the only certain way to get cured was by persisting in the use of the specific, not only till all the symptoms disappeared, but for several weeks after. It is here the quack fails; and the hasty cure turns out to be no cure at all. Nor are the Faculty themselves always sufficiently aware of this trap. The idea of a quick cure is very soothing; and when the patient says, Why should I take medicine after I am well? the physician often suffers him to go from under his care too soon. If the smallest spark is left, it will kindle up into a flame. Here it may be truly

truly said, "A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENETH THE WHOLE LUMP."

When the patient's conduct, or any doubtful symptoms, give the least ground to suspect that the poison still lurks in the system, the best plan, both for the satisfaction of the physician and the safety of the patient, is to put him through a complete course of mercury, taking care at the same time that his constitution receives no injury. What will greatly tend to prevent the constitution from being hurt by the mercury, and likewise promote its beneficial effects on the system, will be a liberal use of the decoction of sarsaparilla, or Lisbon diet-drink.

The venereal disease has, by some, been supposed to induce a variety of other complaints; while others deny that this ever happens. The truth is, that this, like other maladies which weaken the constitution, certainly predisposes it to disease. But it doth not follow, that the lues venerea will produce the small pox,

or any other disease that originates from a specific infection. The small pox or measles do not engender the rickets or scrofula; yet every practitioner knows that the latter often succeed to the former, especially if they are of the malignant, or what are called the bad kind.

When the venereal disease seems to induce other maladies, there is generally reason to suspect that there has existed in the constitution a predisposition to such disorder, and that the venereal taint, by weakening the constitution, might act as a predisposing cause, in exciting the other malady. Every one knows that people afflicted with the scrofula are more liable to diseases of the lungs than those who have no tendency that way; and that if symptoms of a consumption appear in such persons, they seldom recover.

Mr. Bell, of Edinburgh, mentions a number of cases, and says he is in possession of many more, where the symptoms were occasioned by the venereal poison lurking in the system, though the disease
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assumed an appearance very different from that of the syphilis. In all the cases however which he mentions, symptoms of a suspicious nature, sooner or later, seem to have made their appearance, as blotches on the skin, obstinate sores, or ill-conditioned ulcers, swelling of the joints, tumours, with a fluctuation of matter in them, &c. When such symptoms as these appear, and no adequate cause can be assigned for them, there is certainly ground to suspect a lurking lues venerea.

In cases where no suspicious symptoms appear, but which do not yield to the usual methods of treatment, the strictest inquiry ought to be made concerning the patient's former manner of life; and if it is found that he has ever been unfortunate in the venereal line, and has received, what is called an expeditious cure, there will be reason to suspect a lurking lues as the cause of his disorder, and the cure must be conducted accordingly.

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It seems to be a question, whether or no a specific poison introduced into the system can produce any other disease, except that from which the poison is taken. It is not my intention to go into difficult disquisitions on obscure subjects; but I am inclined to think that a specific poison may induce morbid affections very different, in their appearance, from the disease which gave rise to them. I have more than once seen affections of the skin follow the inoculation of the small pox, which no one, unacquainted with the circumstances, would have supposed to have any connexion with that disease.

Any one conversant in the business of inoculation, must know that an erysipelatous inflammation often succeeds to that operation, and goes regularly off before the small pox make their appearance. Nay, I have known the measles make their appearance about the time when the small pox were expected, go through their course, and the small pox seem to wait till they had done so, and then appear.

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I do not say the matter of the small pox actually produced the measles, but it would seem to have predisposed the body to that disease.

It is well known that nurses who attend patients in the small pox are often much disordered by it, especially if they sleep in the same bed with them. I have once or twice seen a putrid fever which seemed to me to have been occasioned by the nurses lying night and day, for three weeks, in bed with children, who died of a very bad kind of small pox. This conduct also hurts the patient.

A medical man of my acquaintance, in taking matter to inoculate a number of children for the small pox, happened to cut his finger with a lancet covered with the matter. He wrapped it up, and thought no more of it, till about eight or nine days after, when he began to feel an unusual sensation, or rather an irritation, about his heart, which he could not account for. Some degree of sickness and nausea ensued, and he was seized with a fainting

fainting fit. On recovering from this he had some warm drink, and was put to bed. Next morning a rash appeared all over him, that had some resemblance to the measles; but he thinks it kept out rather longer than the measles usually do.

Though one would not venture to assert that this rash was occasioned by the pocky matter absorbed from the wound, yet so many circumstances concurred to make the gentleman think so, that, to this day, he cannot be persuaded to the contrary. This gentleman had the small pox in the natural way, when young, but has no recollection of having had the measles.

Whether or not a specific poison taken into the system, at a time when it is not disposed to take on the disease, will produce another, or induce any morbid affection whatever? are questions that we shall leave to the discussion of future physiologists.

Mr. Bell is of opinion, that where the poison of the syphilis exists in the system,

but not in sufficient force to show itself by the usual and more obvious symptoms of the disease, it may, notwithstanding, in various instances be capable of exciting a great deal of derangement, and even many diseases which otherwise might not take place, and that it will more especially be apt to produce those diseases to which the constitution is predisposed, or those to which the patient is rendered liable by exposure to particular occasional causes. The diseases induced by the venereal poison, of which he gives instances, are pthisis, asthma, rheumatism, dropfy, head-ach, epilepsy, and madness.

Diseases succeeding to the lues venerea are not always occasioned by the poison lurking in the system; they are sometimes the effect of the means used to expel that poison. Medicines possessed of such active powers as most preparations of mercury are, cannot be thrown into the stomach in large doses, for any considerable length of time, without materially affect-

affecting that organ so necessary to the existence of every animal.

Mercury will occasionally hurt the stomach and bowels, even when it is administered with the greatest care and attention, and it must be still more pernicious where these are neglected. We may venture to assert, that not one in a hundred of those who take mercury have it in their power to observe a proper regimen.

All active stimulants frequently applied to the organs of digestion destroy their power; hence the wine-bibber, and still more the dram-drinker, generally loses his appetite, and falls the early victim of indigestion. Few stimulants are more active than many of the preparations of mercury; indeed, some of them are so acrid as to be justly ranked among poisons. Such edge-tools as these can seldom be long used with impunity. I have known few people who had taken great quantities of mercury free from complaints of the stomach or bowels.

The lungs, as well as the stomach, are often hurt by means of mercury. The number of young men who die every year in London of consumptions, brought on by the improper use of mercury, is a sufficient proof of the baneful effects of that mineral on the lungs. But it is not the direct effect of mercury on the lungs that does the mischief; it is owing to the uncertainty of our climate, and to the necessity many patients are under of exposing themselves to all weathers, even when the body is fully charged with mercury.

The effects of mercury on the nervous system are more direct; I have often seen paralytic affections brought on by the imprudent use of mercury, by which, even young men, have been rendered lame and miserable for life. But the slow and less perceptible effects of mercury are more frequent and likewise more hurtful; by them the best constitution may be undermined, and the most robust man reduced to an absolute invalid, shivering at
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a breeze, and dragging out a wretched existence under a load of nervous maladies, for which medicine knows no cure.

To obviate the ill effects of mercury on the stomach and bowels, it will be proper always to use the milder preparations, where they will succeed, in preference to the more acrid and stimulating. Where the more active preparations are found necessary, they ought to be administered in small doses; and when they excite fever, or occasion great pain in the first passages, they should be discontinued for some time, and their use resumed after these affections are removed.

Few things are better calculated to prevent mercury from hurting the stomach and bowels, than the proper use of Peruvian bark: It may either be taken in substance, tincture, or infusion, and ought to be alternated with the mercury in such a manner, as to prevent that mineral from tearing those tender and delicate organs to pieces. The way in which

I commonly give it, is in the dose of two tea-spoonfuls of the compound tincture in a glass of the Tunbridge or Pyrmont water, three or four times a day; or it may be taken in common water or wine.

For affections of the nerves occasioned by mercury, we would recommend, besides tonic medicines, the cold bath, provided there is no particular weakness of the breast or bowels to forbid its use. Whenever cold bathing is recommended, it is always to be understood that we give the preference to salt water, where it can be obtained. Indeed in all cases of nervous debility, where the patient is able to bear the shock, sea bathing is the best medicine with which we are yet acquainted.

Though it must be acknowledged that mercury frequently hurts the constitution, yet it is often blamed where it is not in fault. People who have had occasion to take mercury, are apt to impute all the aches and pains they feel afterwards,

wards, to this medicine lying in the body : I remember since the same prejudice prevailed with respect to bark, and believe them both to be equally unfounded. Some, indeed, are weak enough to imagine that the mercury lies in the bones, and never leaves them while the patient lives. This opinion the late Mr. John Hunter has taken some pains to refute : He says, the mercury never enters the bones ; and no man ever had more opportunities of investigating that matter than himself.

That mercury must either kill or cure, is another vulgar error which does considerable mischief. Men are afraid to take a medicine that may terminate their existence, and chuse rather to endure a lingering disease, than risk a sudden death. By this groundless prejudice many have been deterred from taking mercury when it was the only medicine that could be of any service to them. This prejudice, however, dies apace—Most people now
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know that mercury, when properly administered, is both a safe and an efficacious medicine.

Many affect to decry the powers of mercury while they are making fortunes by using it. This is a shameful practice and a dangerous one; mercury should never be concealed from the patient. This conduct, which even physicians too often affect, has sometimes serious consequences. I have known it more than once prove fatal. A medicine which, to be used with safety, requires a particular regimen, should never be concealed; and the practitioner who does so, whatever his motives may be, must excuse me for saying, that he sports with his patient's life.

Though some inconveniences may attend the administration of mercury, yet I know no medicine of equal value. It is useful in a great variety of disorders besides the lues venerea; and here every Tiro knows, that nothing can
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be done without it. From the infant of a week old to the veteran of four-score, it may be given with safety and advantage ; nor do I conceive how any man, at this day, could practise physic if he were deprived of its use.

CHAP. X.

OF IMPOTENCE, OCCASIONED BY
THE VENEREAL DISEASE, &c.

THERE is no idea more depressing to the human mind than that of not being able to propagate the species. I have known men actually criminate themselves rather than lie under the imputation of impotence, and some will even risk the peace of their families to prove that the fault is not on their side ; yet numbers hazard the loss of virility for a moment's gratification, with an object whom they neither love nor esteem.

Were the most avowed libertine to contemplate the victims of illicit love, as they are often seen by the Faculty, he would stand appalled at the view, and shrink from the transient enjoyment,
which

which too often entails debility and loathsome disease on its votaries, and disqualifies them for ever from exercising the functions of manhood.

That impotence may proceed from debility there can be little doubt, and that this is often induced by excess of venery, few will be disposed to deny ; but, as far as my observation goes, debility is more frequently the effect of another vice incident to youth, which, while it is less natural, proves more destructive in its consequence than even excess of venery. Men seldom go far wrong while they follow nature, but every deviation from her laws is pregnant with danger.

That the generative powers may be injured by obstinate gleet, or what is called feminal weakness, is highly probable; but I have known men who, for more than twenty years, had laboured under this malady, yet had large families of seemingly healthy children. This, however, holds out no encouragement to others ; what will not impair the generative faculties of one

one man may totally destroy those of another, and even tend to cut short his life.

Not only the powers, but even the parts of generation, are frequently destroyed by the venereal disease. When this misfortune happens, they cannot be restored by medicine. In curing the venereal disorder mercury will do wonders, but it cannot restore a lost part: Such loss, indeed, would seldom happen, if this medicine were properly applied in due time.

In most of the cases that have come under my eye, where the powers of procreation had been destroyed by disease, there had either been total neglect or very improper treatment. Some years ago a seafaring-man called on me, on his return from a long voyage, to ask my opinion of his case. He had few symptoms of the venereal disease, and these were easily cured; but his penis and scrotum formed only one mass, and had coalesced in such a manner as to appear to me to

be inseparable. I advised him to consult Mr. Pott and some other able surgeons; which he did; and their opinion was, that nothing could be done.

The story he told me was, that when he left England he had a running, for which he had taken some medicine, and had carried as much out with him as was thought necessary for his cure. What use he made of it I do not know; but understood that during his voyage to North America he encountered much hard weather, and was exposed to great cold and fatigue; that on his return to Europe, he landed in Spain, where he was advised to apply to a surgeon for some obstructions in the urinary passages. This surgeon, instead of having recourse to the use of bougies and other mild methods for removing the obstruction, laid open the urethra, and then left the fresh wound and scrotum to grow together.

The only comment I shall make upon this case is, to point out the danger of
going

going to sea with the venereal disease uncured. Had this gentleman staid at home, or been so fortunate as to fall into skilful hands abroad, in all probability he would not have been deprived of his powers of procreation : What he did, however, is done every day, and, we have reason to fear, too often with similar consequences. Surgeons are often too free with the knife ; it should never be used but in cases of absolute necessity, and then only by skilful hands. I have often heard of the penis being amputated, but never met with a case where this operation, or that mentioned above, was necessary.

I have indeed known the penis very nearly destroyed by erosion ; but when the sores were kept thoroughly clean, and the mercury thrown in in sufficient quantities, the erosion of the penis was stopped, and what remained, though sometimes not above an inch, became perfectly sound, and, for any thing I know, remained so during the patient's life.

Instances of impotence occur where the person never was afflicted with the venereal disease, and where it is very difficult to assign any cause for the decay of those parts destined for the propagation of the species. The late Mr. John Hunter mentions several cases where the testicles had gradually wasted away, without any apparent cause. This generally began in one of the testicles, and after that was destroyed, it seized the other, which melted away in the same manner, without affecting the health of the patient, or admitting of any relief from medicine.

The same author mentions the case of a very young gentleman, one of whose testicles wasted entirely away after a Gonorrhæa, which was attended both with a swelled testicle and bubo. This evidently proceeded from the venereal affection.

The ingenious author mentioned above, gives several examples of impotence from affections of the mind; and it must be

acknowledged, that the mind has much to do in this business. Fear, shame, anxiety, dislike of the object, and many other affections of the mind, will take away the venereal appetite, and produce a temporary impotence. I was once consulted in a case of supposed impotence, by a healthy-looking gentleman, who, to fulfil the dying request of his brother, married his widow. I had sufficient reason to believe that this gentleman's impotency, as he was pleased to call it, did not proceed from want of power, but want of love to the object. As the case was delicate, all I could do was to advise him to persist in his endeavours to make the lady happy, and to assure him, that I had no doubt but time would accomplish his wishes.

Impotence arising from natural defects, or the destruction of the parts by disease, seldom admits of any assistance from medicine. When it proceeds from debility, occasioned by excessive evacuations, the
use

use of tonics, as the Peruvian bark and steel are indicated, and they may be administered in various forms with advantage. The chalybeate waters, as those of Tunbridge, Pyrmont, &c. will likewise prove beneficial; but what we would chiefly recommend is the cold bath, especially bathing in salt water.

When the system is excessively irritable, and the constitution is wasted by involuntary emissions, during the night, I would recommend opium; from half a grain to a whole grain may be taken at bed time. If this has not the desired effect, the dose may be increased to a grain and a half, or two grains. Its use ought to be accompanied with tonics, and corroborating medicines.

For the cure of unnatural pollutions, I always recommend matrimony. This, with regular living, and the use of the cold bath, seldom proves unsuccessful. But when I recommend matrimony, I would advise every man to marry the

woman he loves. When this is not the case, satiety and disgust will succeed, and the unhappy husband, in the vigour of life, may, by mistake, impute his want of ardour for the connubial enjoyments to impotency.

A SUMMARY VIEW of the most important
Doctrines contained in the preceding
Pages.

I. Few things would have a more direct tendency to render the venereal disease less frequent than a strictly moral education.

II. It would be of great importance, not only in the prevention of this, but of many other diseases, to impress the young mind with a due sense of the value of health.

III. Though a good constitution ought to be the first object in the education of youth, it is generally made the last, and is often totally disregarded.

IV. A young man should be taught that all his prospects in life depend upon health, and that every view of happiness vanishes with the loss of this valuable treasure.

V. The importance of cleanliness ought likewise to be strongly impressed on the young mind. This, though not ranked among the cardinal virtues, is nearly allied to them.

VI. Nor ought less attention to be paid to sobriety. Men are most apt to go astray,
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when least able to conduct themselves, so as to avoid danger.

VII. A vegetable diet, an open body, and the free use of diluting liquors, will often carry off a gonorrhœa without the use of medicine.

VIII. Where the above regimen does not succeed, recourse may be had to astringent injections, taking care, during their use, to keep down the inflammatory symptoms by cooling purges and diluting diet.

IX. Obstructions of the urinary passages are generally relieved by the use of bougees. If properly made, they may be applied by any person of common understanding.

X. A buboe will generally be relieved by emollient fomentations, soft poultices, and bleeding with leeches.

XI. A swelled testicle requires nearly the same method of treatment, unless where the intention is to discuss both, in which case repellents ought to be used.

XII. A gleet usually yields to astringent injections, tonic medicines, and the cold bath. When these do not succeed, recourse must be had to stimulating injections, such as are recommended in the Appendix.

XIII.

XIII. A chordee requires diluents and the use of opium.

XIV. Warts and excreffences require the application of mild caustics and escharotics, as the powder of Savin, &c.

XV. The pox is generally introduced by means of a chancre, which, if properly treated, will seldom infect the system.

XVI. The only method to prevent a chancre from communicating the poison to the system, is the timely and proper use of mercury.

XVII. Chancres ought never to be hastily dried up, but rather kept open, till the poison is extinguished by mercury.

XVIII. The mouth should be made sore with mercury, and kept so for some time; but it never ought to be given in such quantities as to excite a violent salivation.

XIX. A chancre, concealed under the prepuce, is often productive of much mischief. When it cannot be kept clean, it ought to be laid open.

XX. A chancre, when laid open, will often heal in a few days without the use of mercury, though it would not before under its use.

XXI. The glans, if possible, should be uncovered every day, and the chancres washed with milk and water a little warm.

XXII. Exposure to cold, and improper regimen, under a mercurial course, tend greatly to retard the cure, and often endanger the patient's life.

XXIII. As the suppuration of buboes does not seem to accelerate the cure of the venereal disease, it is proper always to discuss them when it can be done.

XXIV. Venereal ulcers and blotches cannot be cured without mercury, which must be applied according to the urgency of the symptoms.

XXV. When venereal sores grow worse under the use of mercury *, it must be discontinued

* A case at present under my care shews the propriety of this rule in the strongest point of light. A young gentleman, in a provincial city, had been seventeen weeks under a course of mercury for chancres on the glans and prepuce. He was reduced so low that his life was despaired of; and he was thought unable to bear a journey to town. He was, however, brought up by short stages, and I was consulted. My advice was to leave off
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tinued, and the patient put on a course of bark and restorative diet.

XXVI. When the venereal virus fastens on the bones, and produces nodes, &c., it may still be removed by persisting, for a sufficient length of time, in the use of some active preparation of mercury.

XXVII. When the venereal disease affects the organs of sense, as the eyes, ears, &c. it cannot be removed without the use of mercury.

XXVIII. When children are born with symptoms of the venereal disease upon them, they may be cured by the proper application of mercury, both to the infant and nurse.

XXIX. Diseases which resemble the lues venerea, as the fivvins or fibbins, &c., may be cured by mercury applied in the same manner as for the lues.

the use of mercury, to take a tea-spoonfull of the compound tincture of Peruvian bark four times a day, to drink daily a wine bottle of the Lisbon diet-drink, to take nourishing diet, and to drink a few glasses of generous wine every day. The consequence is, that in less than six weeks his appetite, health, and spirits are restored, and his sores, which have only been kept clean, are nearly all healed.

XXX.

XXX. Opium is of great service in appeasing many of the most urgent symptoms of lues venerea, as well as in making mercury sit more easily on the stomach.

XXXI. When a nurse gives the disease to an infant, or the infant to the nurse, both may be cured by the proper application of mercury.

XXXII. Persons about to be married, ought to be very circumspect with regard to their situation, otherwise they may transmit this baneful disease to their progeny.

XXXIII. Women labouring under the venereal disease, are very liable to have abortions, to prevent which mercury is the proper medicine.

XXXIV. In constitutions deeply affected with the scurvy, mercury ought to be administered with the greatest caution. Where that is not attended to, some very untoward symptoms may ensue.

XXXV. In scrofulous habits the lues always proves obstinate, and requires more mercury than in constitutions free from that taint.

XXXVI. Mercury may be given for any length of time without curing the lues, if it
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is not given in such a way as thoroughly to impregnate the system.

XXXVII. Complaints succeeding to the venereal disease are not always owing to that malady, but to the means used to expell it.

XXXVIII. That mercury lies in the bones, is denied by Mr. John Hunter, and is, I believe, a vulgar error.

XXXIX. That mercury hurts the stomach and bowels, when improperly used, is, I am afraid, often too true.

XL. When impotency is the effect of the lues venerea, it is generally owing, either to the ignorance of the practitioner, or the irregularity of the patient.

XLI. The greatest circumspection is necessary in the choice of a wet-nurse in, and near, great towns.

XLII. There is reason to believe that complaints of the womb, which pass for cancers, are often venereal.

XLIII. A woman may have her health ruined by giving suck to an infant born of dissipated parents.

XLIV. The fibbens, as well as the lues, may be communicated to the foetus.

APPENDIX.

THE different forms and preparations of medicine, referred to in the preceding pages, are here brought together, so as to appear in a narrower point of view. Several others, not mentioned, are also added, that the patient may have an opportunity of selecting such as he thinks best suited to his case. Some prescriptions, inserted in the body of the book, are again brought forward here, either that they may appear at more length, or be inserted under the respective heads to which they belong, as Injections, Decoctions, &c.

Physicians still persisting in the practice of writing their prescriptions in Latin, affords a strong proof of the difficulty with which old customs are left off. Those who write books in plain English, still give their prescriptions in an unknown tongue; as if a scrap of Latin could operate like a talisman, or have the power of a charm. This conduct is not only ridiculous, it is dangerous. The persons employed in making up medical prescriptions, are, generally speaking, very idle, and very ignorant. By this I do not mean to throw any reflection on apothecaries. I see no reason

son why an apothecary may not be as learned a man as a physician ; but I know this, that a man may go to his shop a hundred times before he finds him there. The apothecary generally acts as a physician, and leaves the shop to the care of his boy.

Did patients know who compose the draughts they swallow, they would take them with fear and trembling. I seldom give a medicine without seeing it made up, and never to a venereal patient ; because I know that here the cure depends solely on the quality of the medicine, and not on the patient's imagination. Were physicians in general to follow this plan, their art would prove more beneficial to mankind. The doctor would not be the tool of the apothecary, nor the patient the dupe of both. While the apothecary can recommend the physician, the infamous trade of cramming patients with drugs will be carried on, to the disgrace of medicine, and the destruction of mankind.

INJECTIONS FOR THE CURE OF GONORRHOEA.

I. Take of vitriolated zinc, commonly called white vitriol, half a dram : Dissolve it in a pint of water.

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In the early stage of a gonorrhœa, we know of no better injection than this. If used sufficiently often, not less than five or six times a day, it will generally remove the disease very speedily. It is not, however, so proper, in the more advanced periods of the complaint. A slight degree of pain ought to follow its use; but if it produces much, it should be diluted with water. Five or six drops of Goulard's extract, added to a tea-cupful of this solution, renders it more sedative, and consequently a better medicine, where there is great irritation, or the parts are inflamed.

II. Take sugar of lead, half a dram :
Dissolve in half a pint of water.

III. Take extract of lead, thirty drops :
Mix with half a pint of water.

When there is great pain and irritation, it is sometimes necessary to use opiate injections.

IV. Dissolve a dram of purified opium in half a pint of water : Or, add to the same quantity of water, half an ounce of the tincture of opium.

When the discharge appears to be continued from relaxation, or flaccidity of the vessels, the following injection will be found useful :

V. Take balsam of capivi, half an ounce ;
Rub with the yolk of an egg, and, by degrees, add half a pint of rose water.

A stimulant injection, for discharges of long continuance, and gleet :
VI.

VI. Take muriated mercury, commonly called corrosive sublimate, one grain: Dissolve in half a pint of rose water.

The powers of this medicine may be heightened or diminished, by lessening or increasing the quantity of water in which it is dissolved. But the above proportion is as strong as most patients are able to bear.

VII. Take of acetated copper, or verdigrease, two drams: Dissolve in volatile alkali, one ounce.

This is an excellent form of injection; but some care is requisite in the application of it. From twelve to twenty drops may be put into half a pint of water.

Where internal astringents are required, the following will be found useful:

VIII. Tincture of Catechu, or compound tincture of the Peruvian bark: Of either of these, a tea-spoonful may be taken in a glass of wine, three or four times a day. Should the patient prefer pills, I know of none better than those made of equal parts of prepared iron, and extract of bark, with a sufficient quantity of oil of carrui. One may be taken three or four times a day.

When it is necessary to keep the body open and cool, which is always the case in a virulent gonorrhoea, especially during the use of injections, I would recommend the electuary mentioned in the Domestic Medicine. But what I chiefly use now, with that intention, is the following powder:

IX,

IX. Take powdered gum arabic, and cream of tartar, each an ounce and a half; jalap, in powder, two drams: Mix them, and give a tea-spoonful in any liquid, as often as is found necessary to keep the body gently open.

When the pain and irritation in passing water is very great, the patient will find relief from drinking plentifully of linseed tea. It may be infused with liquorice root, and drank a little warm.

A very common and troublesome symptom of the gonorrhœa, is a chordee. This the following pill commonly relieves, probably by taking off the general tendency to spasm:

X. Take powdered opium, one grain; powdered antimony, four grains; crumbs of bread, as much as will make them into a pill: To be taken at bed-time.

MEDICINES USED IN THE CURE OF THE LUES VENEREA.

Mercury, the only specific * hitherto discovered for the cure of this disease, is ad-

* We every day hear that the lues venerea has been cured by medicines that did not contain a single grain of mercury. There is reason, however, to suspect that these cures are, like those of the bite of a mad dog, only performed where the infection had never been communicated. Among the medicines puffed off, at present, for curing the lues venerea, is Velno's Vegetable Syrup: I have seen sufficient proofs of the inefficacy of this medicine, to be able to declare, that it will not cure the lues venerea.

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ministered

ministered both externally and internally. The former, which is by far the safest and the best, when it can be administered with conveniency, consists in the application of the specific in form of ointment to some part of the surface of the body; or in form of vapour, to the whole of it at once. For internal use a variety of preparations have been devised, of which some of the most approved shall be here inserted.

XI. Of the strong mercurial ointment, from half a dram to a dram, may be rubbed every evening on the inner side of the leg or thigh, for half an hour, or till it is absorbed. The frictions must be continued till the mouth becomes sore, and even for some time after the symptoms of the disorder have disappeared. The part into which the mercury is rubbed, should be washed with soap and water, and carefully dried, each time, before the friction is commenced.

XII. Where elegance is an object, an ointment without colour may be made, by rubbing two drams of the white precipitate, or of calomel, with an ounce of hog's lard, and using it as the former.

When mercury is taken internally, it is usually given in form of pill. The best way seems to be, to take the whole quantity, for the day, at bed-time; it then passes along with the food, and seems to disturb the bowels less than when taken at different times through the day.

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The common mercurial pill of both the London and Edinburgh dispensatories are made of the crude mercury, or quicksilver, comminuted or rubbed up with various ingredients, as conserve of roses, &c., and given from three to four or five ordinary sized pills in the course of the day. Some practitioners prefer these pills to every other preparation of mercury; but what I more frequently use, are pills made of one or other of the following preparations of mercury, and corrected with opium as circumstances may require.

XIII. Take of calomel, properly prepared, one dram; conserve of hips, or roses, a sufficient quantity: Make into forty pills. Two or three may be taken at bed-time. Should they gripe, ten grains of opium may be added to the mass when prepared.

XIV. Take of mild muriated mercury, one dram; aromatic confection, or confection of opium, a sufficient quantity to form a mass of proper consistence for pills: To be divided as above, and taken in the same manner. There is not any preparation of mercury, that I have tried, seems to possess more active antivenereal powers, or to disturb the constitution less than this.

XV. Take of calcined mercury, half a dram; powdered opium, ten grains; extract of liquorice, a sufficient quantity: Divide into twenty-four pills. Take one at bed-time. Few constitutions will bear more than two.

This was the favourite preparation of the late celebrated John Hunter.

The following composition, which is well known by the name of Plummer's Pill, is reckoned peculiarly useful in venereal affections of the skin, as well as cutaneous complaints arising from other causes.

XVI. Take of calomel, and the golden sulphur of antimony, each one dram; extract of liquorice, enough to form a mass for pills: Divide into forty-eight pills. Two may be taken at night, and one next morning, increasing the dose according to circumstances.

When the more active preparations of mercury are deemed necessary, the corrosive sublimate may be used in the following manner:

XVII. Take of muriated mercury, or corrosive sublimate, ten grains: Dissolve in a pint of proof spirits. Of this solution, two or three table-spoonfuls may be taken daily. It ought never to be given on an empty stomach.

Some administer the sublimate in form of pill; but as it is apt to hurt the bowels, when taken in this way, I always give it in solution.

As decoctions of various kinds have been supposed to assist in the cure of lues venerea, or, at least, to prevent the mercury from hurting the stomach and bowels, some of the most approved forms are subjoined:

XVIII. Take of sarsaparilla, bruised, three ounces; infuse by the fire, in three pints of water,

water, for twelve hours; then gently boil away to about one half: A little sliced liquorice-root may be added, just before the boiling is finished.

This simple decoction seems to act chiefly by affording a mild nourishment. Even in that point of view it is of great use during a mercurial course. The whole quantity here mentioned may be used in the course of a day, and it should be prepared fresh daily.

The decoction of guaiacum may be made as follows:

XIX. Take of guaiacum raspings, six ounces; shavings ofassafras, four ounces: Boil in six quarts of water to four, adding, towards the end, an ounce of sliced liquorice-root.

Two pints of this decoction may be used daily. By some, guaiacum is supposed to assist greatly in the cure of lues venerea. The superior effects of mercury, however, have, in a great measure, caused it to be laid aside. In some peculiar constitutions, indeed, it seems to assist the powers of mercury.

The decoction of mezereon may be made as follows:

XX. Take bark of mezereon-root, one ounce: Boil it in three quarts of water to two, adding, towards the end, a little liquorice.

This is a warm stimulating medicine, of which from a pint to a quart may be taken daily.

For

For making the Lisbon diet drink, there are many forms; the most common is as under:—

XXI. Take of sarsaparilla, White and sweet flag, each three ounces; groundlin Blim's guillemot yd Liquorice, and onizereon root, of each half an ounce; Wood of rhodium, and cassia, each one ounce; Crude antimony*, two ounces.

Mix and infuse the whole in four quarts of boiling water, for twenty-four hours; then boil to half the quantity, and strain. Of this, from half a pint to a quart may be used daily.

When the mouth is much affected, and very painful, from a violent salivation, the following wash may be used with advantage:

XXII. Take of borax, one ounce: Dissolve it in a pint of boiling water, and add two ounces of honey.

The mouth may be frequently washed with this a little warm.

To remove those warts which sometimes remain after gonorrhœa, I have generally found one of the following succeed:

XXIII. Take of corrosive sublimate, and crude sal armoniac, each half an ounce; Dissolve in four ounces of water.

* The antimony ought to be made into what is called a Nodule, or tied in a bag, otherwise the decoction will be of a disagreeable colour, and look dirty.

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The warts to be occasionally touched with this.

XXIV. Take of powdered safin, two drams; red precipitate, and corrosive sublimate, of each one dram.

A little of this powder may be applied frequently to the warts.

To dress venereal sores, some of the following may be used:

XXV. Take of basilicon ointment, two ounces; red precipitate, two drams: Mix them.

XXVI. Take of basilicon ointment, two ounces; powdered verdigrise, one scruple: Mix them.

XXVII. Ointment of muriated mercury, commonly called *unguentum citrinum*, mixed with three or four times its weight of hog's lard, generally answers this purpose very well.

OF PREVENTIVES.

It has been already observed, that the safest preventive, and the most to be depended on, is a solution of soap properly used.

Spirits are preferred by some, and all kinds of spirits answer equally well.

The following forms have been thought useful as preventive lotions:

XXVIII. Take of corrosive sublimate, one dram: Mix gradually, by rubbing in a mortar,

tar, with two pints of fresh-made lime water. Let it subside, and pour off the clear liquor for use. Keep it in a bottle carefully stopped.

XXIX. Fresh-prepared lime water.

XXX. A few drops of caustic alkali, or soap lies, mixed with common water.

This should always be applied to the tongue before it is used, to determine its strength, which is known by its removing the moisture, without occasioning pain. This form is the most convenient, as a quantity, sufficient to serve for a considerable time, may be carried in the pocket, and used occasionally.

THE MOST

COGENT REASONS

WHY

ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS, CAUSTIC BOUGIES,

AND

VIOLENT SALIVATIONS,

SHOULD BE

Banished for ever from Practice:

WITH

THE MILDEST METHODS

OF

SAFELY TREATING EVERY SPECIES

OF

GENEREAL INFECTION, STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA,
&c.

AND

Correcting Mischiefs arising from Caustic Bougies.

By WILLIAM ROWLEY, M. D.

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AUTHOR OF SCHOLA MEDICINÆ UNIVERSALIS NOVA, THE
RATIONAL PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, &c. &c.

—Hoc tempore
Obsequium amicos, veritas odium parit. TERENCE.

In these times, servile flattery procures friends; but truth, hatred.

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INTRODUCTION.

TO freely examine and correct past and present errors, and to prevent, if possible, future delusion in the treatment of venereal complaints, has the subsequent Work been written. A discordance of opinion long prevailed amongst practitioners of the first eminence in Europe concerning powerful salivations. Astruc and Boerhaave were its advocates, and most of the superintendants of the principal hospitals in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, &c. implicitly adhered to the doctrine; though many of the same surgeons, in their private practice, were less violent in the administration of mercury, and yet effectually cured the generality of patients *.

The irregularities in diet of the inferior classes of people, their exposure to the inclemency of the weather, and various irrational conduct, have been produced as a plea for continuing the strong salivating modes, to prevent disappointment. The reasons are forcible; but yet the condition of the afflicted indigent may be meliorated; *est modus in rebus*. The following production inculcates milder modes of treatment, with numerous prescriptions, in some respects different from any suggested, and severely arraigns the hazardous practices of using astringent injections, or omitting the administration of mild mercurials, in the fresh-contracted venereal poison, when situated in the urethra. Such styptic applications, and irrational omissions, have been irrefutably proved to be productive of the confirmed *lues*,

* In some places on the Continent, within these last forty years, many surgeons and physicians have entirely rejected powerful salivations. To their improved and successful practice I have been an eye-witness.

and of some of the most afflicting complaints man can suffer, namely, dreadful obstructions in the evacuation of urine, *sooner* or *later* in life. Extracts from the writings of the most learned practitioners, that ever appeared in the world, are produced, to the number of *forty*, many of whom have reprobated, in the strongest terms, the enterprising and injurious treatment; a treatment which has been the actual source of numerous bougie cases, so highly distressing and difficult of cure*.

An existing evil is rarely cured by an evil of greater magnitude.—Caustic bougies, burning the acutely sensible urinary canal, have not, in general, answered the intentions of the practitioners, who have lately revived or adopted the cruel application; but, on the contrary, as might have been foreseen, have caused, in too many instances, irreparable mischief. The method is irrational in

* I was consulted by a married gentleman within these few days, for whom an *astringent* injection was prescribed by a respectable surgeon, to speedily cure a clap; a contraction of the neck of the bladder followed its use, and a dreadfully painful inflammation and suppression of urine, and other consequences similar to the case, page 129. After much misery, blood issued, which the artist pretended was a happy circumstance, for it would remove the inflammation and stricture. The same artful pretext has been used by the *urethral causticators* when large bleedings have happened. What! are inflammations in those tender parts to be rashly produced, that hæmorrhage may remove the mischiefs of bad practice? In the foregoing case, half an ounce of *saccharum saturni* was ordered to be dissolved in eight ounces of distilled water—half an ounce of what is called *cerussa acetata*! Ought not a medical Board of Control to be instituted, to examine and restrain such frightfully dangerous prescriptions? The parties do not seem to know the difference between the living and dead penis; nor that the urethra will scarcely bear one grain of corrosive sublimate, or eight grains of vitriolum album, to eight ounces of water. The urethra is nearly as sensible as the eye; which Plenck, Haller, and others have proved. I have the prescription, and many others similar, in my possession, or I could not have supposed such practice possible. The life of the above patient will be saved; but he may long feel the effects of the rash treatment.

principle, and often destructive in consequences. This may be easily accounted for, by those, who will accurately reflect on the membranous structure of the urinary canal; *corpus spongiosum, et corpora cavernosa penis*; the pendulous, relaxed and shortened, or the erect and extended state of the *membrum virile*; the exquisite sensibility and functions of all the procreative and adjacent parts, their nervous sympathy, that cicatrices from burns commonly leave a contraction, &c. &c. Anatomy, physiology, pathology, dissections *post mortem*, experience and clear conclusive reasoning, all militate against the violent remedies adopted*.

The application of the caustic is proved not to have originated with the late celebrated Mr. John Hunter; but with others, at different periods, for above two centuries; and, they have always been condemned by skill and science. The proofs are evident, by quotations from the writings of many, with the deleterious effects of the practice, as a warning to future adventurous causticators!

The mildest and most successful plans of treatment are next produced, for cases of *urethral stricture*, with the composition of the celebrated bougies of M. Daran, in the words of the author; to enable every humane surgeon to relinquish the hazardous caustic practice, in favour of the communicated modes, in which there is neither risk, danger, nor fatality!

In *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova* † the anatomy, physiology,

* How can any man, conversant in practice, rationally expect that excoriation, or ulcer produced by the fiery caustic, should be more easily cured, or less liable to contraction or callosity than from any other cause? What magic charm can make the caustic act only on the disease causing the impediment? Anatomical facts after death prove the contrary; for frightful and fatal devastation of parts, never intended to have been injured, has been perceived, when too late to be remedied.

† *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*; continens *Historiam Medicinæ, Anatomiam,*

physiology, and pathology of each particular part are exhibited in an entirely new and compendious view, to abridge medical studies; the treatises on female nervous, putrid diseases, eye, gout, &c. &c. in the Rational Practice of Physic ||, are founded on deductions from anatomical facts and successful cures; in the whole of which, unproved assertions are excluded, and little admitted, except absolute truths. The same sentiments pervade the whole of the present performance. Not only this treatise, but the other more elaborate works are levelled against all hypothesis unsupported by the most determined and successful cure of diseases. The flights of a warm imagination may please, attract, and delude credulous minds; but they have always produced mischief in the art of medicine, and frequently destruction to society.

The different subjects abound with numerous reflections, observations, and sentiments, which may be of use to all junior practitioners, who are disposed to receive instruction from those skilful seniors and predecessors, whose long experience, ripened judgment, learning, and integrity, have enabled them to warn the unwary, and to inculcate the safest modes of treating various diseases.

The art of physic is not narrow and contracted; nor is it to be founded on a few jejune principles, as some have pretended; it is copious and extensive, includes almost every branch of science, and all the innumerable varieties to be found in human nature. A learned, a very learned education in the art, therefore, is strenuously recommended, in direct contradiction to those narrow precepts, that have

Anatomiam, Physiologiam atque Pathologiam specialem, cum 68 Tabulis æneis. Auctore Gulielmo Rowley, M. D. Universitatis Oxon. Colleg. Regal. Medicorum Londinensis, &c. &c.—Newbery. A work of twenty-six years labour and study, in two quarto Latin volumes.

|| The Rational Practice of Physic, in four volumes octavo, published by Newbery, and all booksellers.

lately

lately bewildered the intellectuals, without informing or satisfying the judgment. It is proved, that a knowledge in the art of medicine is as useful in surgery, and particularly in treating venereal complaints, as the most skilful modes of performing manual operations.

Many professional truths, expressed with asperity of language, will appear in different parts of the work; in which, however, no personal offence is intended. It is the age of insane projects and poisonous experiments, and the augmenting evils ought to be spiritedly opposed. It is enough to excite the most lively indignation in the breast of every experienced medical observer, possessing sensibility, to see human beings become the devoted victims to wanton projects, unnecessary barbarity, and sometimes, to the idle, visionary conceits of youthful inexperience, pride, and obstinacy!

May the prayer of the immortal poet, in future, ever be uppermost, and pervade the mind of all professors and practisers in the humane art of medicine:

“TEACH ME TO FEEL ANOTHER’S WOE!”

It may be reasonably asked, what claim has the present author to attention? What right has any individual to censure errors, and to dictate to the faculty the indispensable duties they owe to society? None! except a warm affection and regard for the honour of the healing art, an impulsive zeal to alleviate human sufferings, and abundant opportunities in many parts of the world, besides Great Britain, of observing the most extensive practice, in all branches of medicine for above forty years; a constant practice, that, perhaps, few individuals ever enjoyed for so long a period*.

As

* After being ten years in the unconfined and diligent study and practice of anatomy, surgery, physic, &c. in many parts of the world; in 1766 I settled in London, and, in imitation of many excellent practitioners of that

As to right, every professional individual has an undoubted right to detect, expose, and remove, if possible, all errors and dangerous treatment from the art, especially if, at the same time, milder and more successful modes be communicated. How far these intentions have been accomplished, in the former works, or on the present occasion, must be left to the consideration of the learned and candid; or perhaps to futurity, when the author, the promoters and abettors of the censured practices, and the illiberal private opposers of interesting public truths, shall be no more!

Saville Row, St. James's,

March 24, 1800.

day, opened my house without any restriction for giving professional assistance to all the poor who applied, for about twenty-two years. Some thousands were relieved annually. About twelve years ago I relinquished this practice; but not before I caught a putrid fever that had nearly proved fatal. Near twelve years I have been physician to that excellent institution the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary; where are seen more patients, in every disorder incident to the human body, of all ages, sexes, &c. than at any single hospital in London. How that place is conducted, the profession well know. It is, therefore, not on slight grounds, nor on trifling information, that such freedom is used in differing from many other practitioners, of perhaps less experience. It is not on the plea of very old age, but on the plea of extensive observation and unremitting application to practical facts, that the present doctrines are promulgated; for it is possible for a physician to grow old without the benefit of experience, if his practice and opportunities be contracted, or if his mind be biassed with prejudices, which neither reason, reflection, nor ill success in practice, can eradicate.

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ON THE
ORIGIN OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE,

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTIONS AND DISORDERS SINCE ITS AP-
PEARANCE, AND ITS COMBINATION WITH THE SEA
SCURVY, AND SCROFULA, OR KING'S EVIL.

TWO discoveries of great importance to the commercial world, the use of the magnet in directing the mariner's compass, and the transatlantic regions of America, were succeeded by two evils of great magnitude, the *sea scurvy* and the *venereal disease* *. These disorders singly, or combined, and other physical effects of extensive commerce, have prevailed, in a certain degree, through most parts of Europe, changed the face of many diseases, as described and cured by the ancients †, and have given rise to a more extensive use of mineral remedies ‡.

The venereal disease appeared, originally, in Europe soon after the return of Christopher Columbus from the discovery of America, about the year 1493.

* The *land scurvy* had been seen anciently in camps, and mentioned even by *Pliny* and others; but this, though similar in many symptoms, was not what we now strictly call the *sea scurvy*, which arises from long sea voyages, salt provisions, &c. &c. Inflammatory diseases are less, low nervous, more frequent.

† To those diseases may be added, that chronic complaint of the lymphatic or absorbent vessels and glands, called the *scrofula* or *king's evil*; which, though not a modern affection, yet has been more frequent since the *venereal virus* has so universally prevailed, and since the small-pox has been communicated by inoculation, without regarding the subject, or being particularly acquainted with the constitution, from which the matter of infection was taken. Whoever reflects on the venereal infection being conveyed to the constitution by the absorbent system, and sees that the virus often attacks the lymphatic glands in the groin, axilla, and other parts, will easily conceive that the *sea scurvy*, *scrofula*, and *venereal disease*, in the same constitution, must make sad havoc, and impede the cure of venereal symptoms: these circumstances I have frequently seen very embarrassing to the most skilful practitioners.

‡ As mercury, antimony, chalybeates, vitriolics, &c.

The disorder is communicated from infected persons to others untainted, in various modes ; but principally by the commerce of the sexes during the act of coition.

DESCRIPTION AND DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES TO THE SUFFERERS.

On the first appearance of this horrid disorder in Europe the physicians, as usual on all similar occasions, entered into violent disputes concerning its nature, analogy to other morbid affections, and classification. Surprised at the desolating effects of this novel destroyer of human tranquillity and pleasure, this alarming curb to the free enjoyment of sensual gratification, the physicians and the unfortunate victims to its cruel ravages were thrown into the utmost consternation, dismay, and misery. The venereal infection was considered with so much abhorrence and detestation by society, so disgraceful to human decency and character, that thousands perished through concealment, and, perhaps, millions by the affection itself, before adequate remedies were invented, or applied sufficiently powerful to repel the invading and ravaging enemy*. The unfortunate sufferers were frequently abandoned to their wretched fate, the recital of whose pressing and various afflictions would strike sensibility and humanity with horror, and fill the world with tragic scenes, far above the sublimest pathos of all poetic fiction. Numbers were cut down in the prime of life, others lingered through inexpressible woe and misery, were deserted by their nearest relatives and the rest of mankind†. No
balm

* For particular accounts and descriptions see Laurentius Frisius, 1494 ; Jacob. Catineus de Morbo Gallico, 1494. Exortus est (says this author) in Italia monstrosus morbus, nullis ante seculis visus totoque orbe terrarum incognitus.

Nic. Leonicensus. Novam hanc luem nunquam a veteribus visam ; et ideo a nullo medico vel Græco vel Arabe inter alia morborum genera, tactam. See likewise Prosp. Borgiautius, who says, Partes obscenæ afficiuntur, hoc est *virga*, glans, preputium, coles, cunnus, anus, primos aggressus patiuntur ; deinde sensim in omne corpus, virus perreptat, sævitque. The disorder has continued in a similar manner to this very day.

† The period when the venereal disease was known in Europe is well established by the act of the parliament of *Paris*, dated 6th March 1496 ; in which all the poxed subjects were ordered to quit the city of Paris, *under pain of death, or capital punishment*. Because, says the preamble, for two years has been
spreading

balm of comfort was afforded to many wretched objects of venereal contagion; they were stigmatized with the bitterest reproach; without a sympathizing friend to close their eyes, they died in obscurity, unpitied. Is it possible to conceive a greater accumulation of human affliction?

MERCURY ITS ONLY TRUE SPECIFIC.

In the course of many years of horrid misery, violent disputation, and industrious investigation, a most important discovery checked the destructive progress of the venereal disease; this was the grand specific MERCURY. Without the use of this valuable and generous mineral, miserable must have continued the state of man; for vast regions must have been partially depopulated, and many of the remaining human beings might have become the devoted victims to painful apprehension, disease, and misery *. There are few of the male sex, especially in large cities, who escape this common infection, at one time of life or other. Millions, perhaps myriads, of lives have been preserved by the application of MERCURY, and many have perished from the illiberal opposition to its salutary use; for, like all other laudable inventions, it was violently opposed and rejected by many eminent practitioners on its first introduction. Even now, its application is forbid by some novices in the art, more attached to speculations than sound and successful practice; in cases too, that require its prompt and excellent assistance. Time alone, the clearer of all doubts, will show the shocking effects of their temerity and per-

spreading a contagious disorder, called *grosse verole*, therefore it was fit to make provision, &c. Thus, the disorder had been spreading for two years, since it made its first appearance in 1494, so as to oblige the magistrates to frame laws for the preservation of the people.

* *Laurentius Frisius de Morbo Gallico.* Anno Christi 1496 efferbuit quidam morbus atrocissimus; irruens in homines sævo morsu ulcerum glandularum, et durissimorum dolorum, adeo notabili cruciata, quod singuli videntes obstupere: nam incognitus et invisus erat hic pestifer morbus, non tantum vulgo, verum etiam doctis, et in sacra medicina eruditis. Ingruit et tam mira tumultuatio in plebe, quod leprosi nolebant habitare cum hoc morbo infectis. *Pauperes, hoc malo laborantes, expellebantur ab hominum conversatione, tanquam purulentum cadaver, derelictum à medicis; et habitabant in arvis et sylvis.*—Here we see the wretched fate of the poor, afflicted with this disorder, discarded by all society; even lepers avoided the afflicted as though they were a pestilence. The unfortunate were consigned to dens, woods, and mountains; even their parents and family would have no commerce with them, through fear of infection.

severing presumption; but it is to be lamented, that the unfortunate, credulous patients, who become the dupes to many novel infatuations, are to be the injured sufferers through life*.

Artifice and effrontery may raise a clamour against this **OPTIMUS GENERIS HUMANI CONSERVATOR**; but it may be depended on, that all the pretensions of curing venereal infections without **MERCURY**, are the seductive delusions of designing men, who, whilst they promulgate their specious deceptions, are secretly dissolving this drug in different compositions. This is no new trick, for it has been the finesse of boasters, pretenders, and deceivers, for above two centuries; but to see the unsuspicious part of the faculty run full speed after these absurdities, and cruelly suffer their patients to lose that precious time, in the pursuit of crafty deceit or whimsical projects, which might be much better employed in restoring them to perfect health, is sufficient to excite the most lively indignation in the breast of every honourable, experienced, and humane practitioner.

Three ages, almost, have confirmed the great utility of the **ALL-POWERFUL MINERAL**, even while its application was not well comprehended. The improved and refined administration of **MERCURY**, to the great variety of cases that continually occur, was gradually introduced, and particularly reserved for the present and future race. The accurate use of this grand specific is clearly and practically determined, though perhaps not universally known.

FORMER INJUDICIOUS ROUGH PRACTICES.

In recent infections, formerly, violent aloetic and colocynth purges, gamboge, elaterium, hellebore, scammony, &c. were united with calomel, turbith mineral, white or red precipitated mercury, and mercurials to the enormous dose of ten, twenty, or thirty grains *alterno quoque mane*. Incurable gleet and shattered constitutions were among the least ill consequences of these practices. The most violent fluxing salivations were excited by similar remedies, sometimes with, and, at times, without mercurial frictions. The loss of

* It seems, by various authors, that empirics first used *argentum vivum*. I have Nicolaus Leoniceus, Ulricus de Hutten, Petrus Andreas Matheolo Sinensis, Laurentius Frisius, Joannes Almenar Hispanus, Angelus Bologninus, Nicolaus Poll, Joannes Antonius Bologninus, all in one volume, published at Venice 1535. Poll is dated 1517. *Argentum vivum* was well known in ointments, called, by some, *remedium empiricorum*, and its use opposed.

the teeth, gums, and even, sometimes, the eyes, nose, uvula and palate, accompanied with horrid stinking breath, foul fetid ulcers of the mouth and tongue, throat, &c. incurable diarrhœa, dysentery, or bloody flux, were among the gentlest evils of the rough and coarse modes of treatment usually adopted in the confirmed lues venerea by many eminent practitioners.

FATALITY OF VIOLENT TREATMENT.

Many perished under the torturing courses, or, if they survived, their lives were, frequently, suspended only to breathe the remainder of a wretched existence in continual excruciating torture and dire vexation, until death, welcome death, put a final period to the utmost bounds of accumulated misery.

THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL AFFECTIONS GRADUALLY IMPROVED.

The rational cure of venereal complaints has been gradually meliorating for half a century; and the united labours of the most celebrated physicians and surgeons in Europe have tended to extinguish the venereal virus, without injury to the constitutions of the sufferers. To this last, important object, have the studies of the skilfullest practitioners been directed, and they have succeeded, as far as cases, climates, and constitutions will admit: thus has their indefatigable industry been rewarded. Mankind reap the benefit. Recourse is not had, now, to many drastic and violent remedies, with which all the professional works of our ancestors abound. Past experience and past misfortune had awakened sensibility, and the art of treating the venereal disease had arrived at a great degree of perfection under the direction of the learned and experienced of the profession. If practitioners had been contented with success, or had judiciously and gradually engrafted any new materials on the old and experienced stock of science, without attempting to destroy the respectable fabric, all would have continued safe and secure: the disorder, annually, would have been rendered milder, and its most ravaging symptoms might in time be extinguished, by avoiding those injudicious projects, lately adopted, that have revived, or laid the foundation of the confirmed lues, or other dreadful evils, which daily make their appearance. Every laudable endeavour to acquire excellence in the healing

art demands the gratefulest acknowledgments of all human society ; but it has ever been the fate of medicine, in every age, to suffer temporary disturbance and injury from the vain, chimerical conceits of infatuated visionists, or daring projectors, who, by plausible arts, obtain the ear and attention of an abused public. When mankind grant unlimited faith to the workers of wonders, they are often brought to sincere and sorrowful repentance.

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE NOT TO BE CHANGED ON SLIGHT
GROUNDS.

It is highly commendable to remedy the defects of an improveable art ; but it is equally reprehensible to sap the foundation of all true knowledge established by experience, to make way for the practical application of futile speculations and untried experiments. An ignorance of the securest and safest modes of treating the venereal infection, when recent, or a reliance on many modern pretensions of men who wish to appear singular, are the principal causes of innumerable evils, which daily follow, and render human beings permanently miserable. New projects frequently produce new evils. If the recent infection be judiciously managed, the confirmed pox, with all its dreadful concomitants, would rarely appear ; but some, by irrational practices, seem determined to promote the continuance of the *lues venerea confirmata* from age to age, as though it were an hereditary estate entailed on man from generation to generation. This does not appear so much to originate in a desire of promoting so lucrative a branch of the profession, as in a determined and perverse obstinacy in error, and a blind credulity in temporary prejudices. Wisdom suffers self-examination, and corrects mistakes ; pride and arrogance never suppose the possibility of defects !

It is much more congenial to every liberal mind to praise extraordinary excellence, or even to acquiesce in the narrow limits of indolent mediocrity, than to have the disagreeable necessity of expressing disapprobation, and severe censure, on dangerous prejudices and fatal presumption. The demon of *hypothesis* struts forth with such gigantic and deadly strides, in various departments of medicine ; that it becomes the duty of every honourable man in the profession to assist in crushing the hydra-headed monster. Nothing but the Herculean club of truth can totally vanquish the variegated colours and wild

wild pretensions of daring innovation ; plausible in appearance, but deleterious in consequences. Morality demands the attempt, but the event must be left to time, reflection, and circumstances. The reasons for this exordium will be amply manifested in the subsequent animadversions, dedicated to humanity, and to the use of the present and rising generation.

ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE VENEREAL VIRUS, AND GENERAL
MODES OF REMOVING IT FROM THE HUMAN BODY.

THE specific principles, or particles, of the venereal poison, have eluded all the researches of chemical or physiological industry. The disease is only known to be in the habit by its effects, and its cure by mercury has been acquired by long experience : for no hypothesis, hitherto published, explains, in a satisfactory manner, how mercury extinguishes the venereal infection. The poisonous particles are different from all other contagion, and the affection is *miasma sui generis*. It is extremely subtle and penetrating, for it enters the minutest pores of our body, and, from contact, is conveyed by the lymphatics into the habit. It is acrid and irritating, and has an affinity with oleous and mucal fluids ; from hence it affects, particularly, the muciparous and lymphatic glands. It is neither determined to be acid, alkaline, putrid, nor saline. In the night it rages most, and cannot be destroyed by any other means than mercury. It is not generated spontaneously in the body, but always acquired from previously infected persons. It is communicated by the mother to the foetus before birth, or received by lactation, coition, or by contact, if the skin be chapped or abraded ; by kissing, drinking ; by infected linen or clothes ; touch, or by an infected lancet, &c. *

The *effects* of venereal poison are, irritation, from whence inflammation, mutation and perversion of parts, causing a puriform efflux, indurations of glands, abscess, diseases of the periosteum, or lardaceous ulcers, &c. &c.

The *miasma* may be absorbed from the part first infected, and

* See the celebrated Van Swieten, Comment. I. v. p. 378.

conveyed into the constitution. The disease may be aptly divided into topic, or local, universal, larvated, and complicated.

The cure requires the removal of the venereal poison, and a reparation of the parts, as much as possible, depraved by its poisonous and devastating powers.

Numerous are the remedies that have been used, applauded, and frequently excluded from their violence of action, or inefficacy; some former celebrated medicines are only applied now as auxiliaries, as *sarsaparilla*, *lignum guaiacum*, *radix china*, *sassafras*, &c. &c.

Millions of experiments prove that mercury is the only, the best, and safest antidote for venereal infection. The modes of applying mercury are external and internal.

The *external* methods are by mercurial friction, fumigations of cinnabar, warm baths, composed of aqueous solutions of *hydrargyrus muriatus*, which last few use. The internal are, simple mercury, or mixed, or prepared with acids, &c. The anointing with mercury is divided into two modes of treatment—by *powerful salivation*, or by *extinction* of the disease without salivation, or with a very slight ptyalism; warm baths to the number of thirty, with light frictions every other, or every third day; and by aperients, occasionally prescribed, to prevent the sore mouth, &c. This last plan suits best the south of France, Italy, and warmer climates; but is not so successful in England, and much less so in very cold countries.

Strong fluxing salivations I have always thought unnecessary, except in very strong robust habits, not easily moved, and very particular cases; they are too violent, often injurious through life to delicate habits; and as frequently unsuccessful, as several other modes, in cases difficult of cure.

The *extinction* of the disease by light frictions, and by giving internally very *small doses* of mercurials at proper distances, with or without antimonial, is perhaps the best mode of treating the *lues venerea confirmata*. It may be slow, but it is gentle, and fully as certain, or perhaps more certain in curing than any methods yet devised, which my own practice, in thousands of cases, has fully confirmed. It is the art of giving mercurials as *alteratives*, not as *evacuants*, by which no violent commotion is excited in the body. The mild modes of treatment adopted will be fully explained in the subsequent pages: they differ, in some respects, from all others yet practised, and they

leave the constitution, after the cure, less injured by the course than is usually experienced in the more rough salivating methods.

Different practitioners pursue the mode of cure to which they have been most accustomed; those, who think no other practice effectual, except salivations excited by frictions, censure the methods by alteratives; those, who pursue the middle course, or depend on mercurials and antimonials as alteratives, will equally reprobate violent distressing salivations, so much in vogue, in most of the hospitals in Europe.

Both methods, and likewise others, perfectly cure the disease; but every method has failed and will fail, in some few instances, which experienced and candid practitioners readily acknowledge. In some cases, and in particular constitutions, the *venereal virus* attaches itself so firmly, that it is disunited, or extinguished, with the greatest difficulty. Repeated salivations have been frequently known to fail; and it may be asserted with truth, that every purpose of salivation may be effected, without that destroyer of teeth, gums, and producer of ulcerations of the mouth, throat, &c. by the mild alterative courses adopted and recommended in this treatise*.

Different are the preparations of mercury, but few, except those advised, can be given a sufficient length of time to conquer the disease, and effectuate a perfect cure, without injuring the stomach, intestines, and debilitating the constitution. Many have destroyed the tone of the stomach and laid the foundation of chronic complaints, by a long continuance of calomel, in large doses, tur-

* Mankind, who know not the difficulties medicine has to encounter in some instances of venereal infection, should be very cautious how they censure practitioners in medicine, for not affording that relief which they expect, and which it must be the wish of every honourable physician or surgeon to accomplish. Every one practises to the best of his judgment; but every man, as in other professions, cannot be equally experienced and skilful. The most learned and skilful may fail in some cases, owing to the perverseness of the disease, and some peculiarity or morbid affection in the patient's constitution, who may not be able to bear the most decided and proper remedies. In some of these instances the utmost bounds of medical skill are requisite to perceive constitutions, indications, and contra-indications, and judiciously to accommodate the practice to all the peculiarities of the case, for which it is impossible to give written rules, as they must depend on the discernment and well-established experience of the practitioner.

bith mineral, &c. &c. yet these preparations may be safely given in very small doses, if well prepared.

In preparing for the alterative course, bleeding and an aperient are first necessary: the diet should be light and innocent, not fat nor acid, and the drink only *decoctum sarsaparillæ*, with or without milk, if the patient be plethoric, and of an inflammatory habit; if of a pale, frigid, lax constitution, *lignum guaiacum*, or *sassafras*, may be added, or used alone in decoctions, &c. Wine, conviviality, and excesses of every kind, should be avoided.

The air should be mild, for cold does irreparable mischief during the course. A north or north-east wind is very inimical to the cure of *lues venerea*. Heat, on the contrary, relaxes. A medium should be observed. Flannel or calico should be worn next the skin. If the mouth become heated or sore, or the face swell, the mercurial is to be suspended for a few days, and an aperient given.

Tepid *baths* are useful in some cases, especially where the skin is dry and the pores closed; but after bathing, cold is to be avoided.

If diarrhoea or dysentery happen, astringents and opiates are to be prescribed according to circumstances; if gangrene appear, bark, vitriolic acids, wine, &c. are necessary.

These are the general rules of practice to be observed in the venereal disease; the brief description and management of all the different species shall follow in succession.

AFFECTIONS, &c.

URETHRITIS VENEREA.

THE URETHRITIS VENEREA is an inflammation of the urethra, arising from recent venereal infection, with a discharge of morbid fluid from the urethra.

It is neither a discharge of semen, which its former name *gonorrhœa* * implies, nor of purulent pus from an ulcer, as dissections prove; but serum from the mouths of irritated exhalent arteries, and a morbid, yellow, or greenish-coloured mucus, from the muciparous glands, irritated and diseased by the venereal virus †.

It

REMEDIES and TREATMENT.

THERE are two methods of treating *urethritis venerea*: the one speedy, by *astringent drying injections*, but hazardous and frequently dangerous in its consequences; the other slower, by internal medicines, but certain, safe, and secure from all future evils.

In the commencement of the disorder, if the mercurial mucilaginous injection be skilfully applied, the cure is often accomplished in a few days, with very little medicine; but after that early period all injections may be hazardous.

By this mode of cure it frequently happens

* The word *gonorrhœa* is an improper name, and conveys no just nor adequate idea of the disease: for *γόνι* means semen, or the seed, and *ῥέω* to flow; therefore the word *gonorrhœa* means nothing but a discharge or efflux of the semen or seed. The virulent, or venereal *gonorrhœa*, as it has been injudiciously called, is an increased discharge from the minute vessels and mucal glands of the urethra, tainted with the venomous venereal infection. Can any thing in nature be more dissimilar than an involuntary efflux of semen and the discharge and inflammation created by venereal infection? This dissimilarity demands a change of *nomen*, or name, to convey a precise idea of the disorder here treated; and the present name is more rational than the former.

† Some have boldly asserted that the venereal discharge from the urethra was quite *innocent* and *harmless*, that the cure only required common antiphlogistic remedies, as other simple inflammations, &c. It is so *innocent*, that it is commonly caught from *impure persons*, already infected; and it is so *harmless*, that most infected persons communicate the poison to others not infected, by the act of coition. It is not a simple inflammation, but an inflammation and increased glandular secretion compounded with the *venereal virus*. Is there not a specific difference between inflammation from cold, &c. and inflammation from venereal poison? This supposed innocence and simplicity of venereal inflammation has ruined the peace of many families: for husbands, on this innocent simple supposition, have infected their wives or favourites, and females their husbands or friends, &c. Such are the effects of whimsical false conceits when admitted into the practice of medicine. Nothing in nature can be more dissimilar than inflammation from venereal virus and inflammation from other causes.

Affections, &c.

It is acquired generally by the act of coition with an infected woman.

The *virus* of *urethritis venerea* should not be distinguished from *venereal virus*, according to the celebrated *Tode*; for such distinction and its consequent injudicious treatment have been productive of great calamities to human beings. It is distinguishable from a simple *gleet*, and from an involuntary emission of *semen*, by the violence of its symptoms and its power of infecting a non-infected female.

The seat of the disorder is, chiefly, in *lacunis Morgagnianis* of the urethra.

In respect to its nature, it is *simple*, when recent and without any other disorder: *inveterate*, when it remains a long time: *complicated*, when combined with ulcers of the penis, &c. in which case the *virus* is more easily absorbed and conveyed to the habit, than where no venereal ulcers exist. -

The Symptoms or Signs.

I. The first sign or symptom is a titillation, or sensation of itching in the urethra.

II. A

* I have had reason, in innumerable instances, to suppose, that the recent poisonous particles of the infection have been immediately destroyed in the urethra, by means of the specific thus administered. A great many, with *Tode*, have pretended to believe, that the *virus* in the urethra does not require any *mercurials*; I have known numerous instances of confirmed poxes, and other calamities succeeding this unfounded supposition, or belief, when applied to practice. It is likewise one of the decoying and leading principles of empirics, or quacks, to assert that they perform all their *wonderful* cures without mercury, in their miracle-working compositions; these artful stratagems succeed with persons ignorant of our profession; but all honest physicians not only acknowledge the utility of the specific, but are happy, beyond expression, in the permanent success of a judicious and mild mercurial practice.

Remedies and Treatment.

happens that patients never experience the symptoms common to subsequent stages *.

If the disease should have been neglected on its first appearance, a judicious treatment of membranous and mucal glandular inflammation, arising from *venereal poison*, should be adopted: for on this last idea depends the safest cure and future security of the patient.

In the third and fourth stages of the *urethritis venerea*, the grand objects of cure are:

I. To diminish inflammation by depleting the vessels. II. To render the urine passing through the urethra milder, by changing the particles of urine, and rendering the periods of its evacuation more *distant*; thus occasioning the pain and scalding to be less frequent.

By administering the grand specific: MERCURY, in its simplest form, in very small doses, as an *alterative*, at the proper season, after the first inflammatory symptoms have subsided.

Urethral inflammation is diminished, in full habits, by bleeding, by nitrous, or by various neutral or ca-

thartic:

Affections, &c.

II. A very thin or serous running succeeds, which stains the linen, leaving, when dry, a dark-coloured margin: this is, generally, a characteristic of the commencing stage of the disorder. It seems to arise from irritation and increased action of the exhalent arteries, stimulated to augmented excretion by the venereal poison.

III. The discharge becomes rather thicker, increases in quantity, the urethral external orifice swells, looks red, is heated and gapes, and an acute smarting pain is felt in voiding urine, like the pricking of pins or needles, especially after evacuation, called *ardor urinæ*, or scalding of water.

The mucal glands are now stimulated to an increased diseased action, and pour forth abundance of purulent mucus, contaminated with the venereal infection.

IV. The discharge, or running, soon becomes more purulent, has a yellowish, or greenish colour; the heat, inflammation, and pricking pains increase, and are often accompanied with a painful nocturnal erection, called *chordée*.

Remedies and Treatment.

tharttic salts, with or without manna, rhubarb, infusions of fenna, &c.

The particles of urine are rendered less irritating by avoiding all salted food and salts, by mucilaginous and emollient, demulcent and farinaceous drinks, refrigerant emulsions, taken in small quantities; for copious draughts of any liquids may distend the vessels and increase urinary secretion; occasion a more frequent discharge of urine, and consequently augment urethral irritation*.

The most simple forms of exhibiting mercury are, by the union of *hydrargyris purificatus* with mucilaginous, or other substances: these are applicable, with or without camphor, to all delicate, nervous, female, or debilitated habits.

To the robust and less irritable the *mercurius dulcis, sexies vel decies sublimatus, et aquâ multoties lotus*, from half a grain to one or two grains, formed into a pill, with a grain of sugar and mucilage of gum arabic, is to be given every night, or night and morning; whilst emollient, demulcent, mucilaginous remedies, and cooling aperients, are exhibited †.

These,

The

* These modes of treatment, though they may appear diametrically opposite to the *Boerhaavian* plan of *diluting*, as it is called, have yet been attended with the most decided success; and whoever would know more of these principles may consult the third volume of my *Rational Practice of Physic*, containing the modes of treating all diseases of the eyes, &c. but particularly that chapter on inflammation of the eyes called ophthalmia, species chemosis, &c. &c. where the rationale of the *non-diluting* practice is amply considered, on self-evident principles. In the introduction this subject is likewise discussed.

† The *mercurius dulcis, sexies vel decies sublimatus, præparatus et lotus*, which I formerly recommended under the name of *aquila alba*, is, next to *pil. hydrarg.* one

Affections, &c.

These, conjointly, may be denominated the *purulent stage* of recent venereal infection.

All the recited symptoms are more or less violent, continue for longer or shorter periods, according to seasons of the year, climate, age, sex, and constitutions.

V. As the inflammatory symptoms and painful sensations diminish, the greenish or yellow discharge disappears, the heat in voiding urine ceases, and the matter issuing through the urethra becomes gradually more viscid and white, less in quantity, daily attended with a slight sensation of itching in the urethra, and, finally, ceases to flow.

of the mildest mercurials, when its particles are divided by *saccharum album*, and formed into pills with mucilage of gum arabic. This mercurial, ad gr. ℥ vel gr. j. rarely affects the stomach or intestinal canal, and never requires opium, as the common calomel does, to counteract its irritating qualities. Whether directing the calomel to be only three times sublimed may have given a greater latitude to those ingenious artists, the laboratory chemists (who sometimes consider the cheapest mode of preparing medicines, without any regard to the consequences to patients), to sophisticate, or ill prepare that medicine; is a question worthy of attention.

For an explanation of the remedies recommended, and particularly for the use of junior practitioners, *formule* of prescriptions are added, as a general plan of cure; which, however, should be altered according to circumstances of cases, constitutions, ages, sexes, &c.; for the success of all medicine must ever depend on the discrimination and judgment of the practitioner. The most excellent remedies, improperly applied, do mischief.

Above thirty years ago, when I had an extensive practice in the art of surgery, I published a short tract on the *recent venereal infection*, and was one of the first who reprobated in the strongest terms, the use of violent, drastic, *aloetic* and *colocynth* purges, large doses of *calomel*, and all rough practices, as likewise *astringent injections*, which I had then seen do irreparable mischief. I had, at that time, acquired as many opportunities as most practitioners in Europe for obtaining facts in venereal affections, not only in England, but in most parts of the continent, and whilst in his Majesty's service at *Belleisle*, 1761, 1762, and 1763; the *Havannah*, most of the West India islands, America, &c. Very extensive observations have fully confirmed and established the truth of those former doctrines, in many hundreds of cases.

Remedies and Treatment.

The venereal poison is much more easily attacked and defeated when recent in the urethra, glans penis, &c. than when, by fatal omissions in this early period, it is suffered to ravage at large in the constitution, which often happens from the surgeon and patient thinking too lightly of fresh-contracted venereal infection, and supposing it cured when the symptoms have only been mitigated.

Great cleanliness is necessary to prevent repeated mischief from the venereal venom, during the virulent stage of the urethral discharge; for fresh infection has been repeatedly renewed by suffering the infectious run-

Affections, &c.

now. This is the last and *healing* stage, when the cure has been skillfully managed.

PROGNOSTIC, OR CONSEQUENCES
OF THE SYMPTOMS OF URE-
THRITIS VENEREA.

I. According to the violence of the symptoms, and their judicious or injudicious treatment, these stages of the disorder sooner or later terminate.

II. The matter, if not interrupted by *astringent injections* and other malpractices, changes to a light yellow, and afterwards to a white colour, growing daily thicker, as the irritation and discharge diminish, and as the *venereal virus*, which gave cause to all the symptoms, is extinguished: then all appearances gradually vanish; and thus the cure, if properly conducted, is permanently completed.

III. The cure of the *urethritis venerea* likewise depends much upon the length of time the infection may have been received.

IV. The mildness or virulence of the symptoms.

V. The

Remedies and Treatment.

running to remain long on the linen in one situation *.

To the strongest constitutions, and athletic habits, to soldiers and sailors, not easily moved by light remedies, calomel, as prepared according to the present Pharmacopœia, may be given in larger doses, with more active cathartics. In the painful erection of the penis, called *chordée*, venæsection is sometimes necessary, and anodyne, emollient, and nitrous *peniluvia*. Internally, solution of nitre in almond emulsion, cathartics, camphor in large doses, with opium, &c. If much ill-coloured purulent matter issue, then *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, instead of other mercurials, may be administered, until the purulency of the matter be diminished in quantity, and changed in quality, and the *chordée* no longer molest or cause nocturnal inquietude. In long-continued purulency, the cure is greatly facilitated by *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, or by *hydrargyrus muriatus* in the eighth of a grain three times a-day, dissolved and diluted.

Whilst

* It should be observed, that I am always speaking as an accurate observer, and an experienced practical physician, not as an idle speculator; from a mind constantly occupied, above forty years, in the most extensive duties of the profession. Innocent and harmless as the venereal running has been pronounced to be, numbers have reinfected themselves by suffering their penis to remain soaking in their own envenomed venereal matter, issuing from the urethra. This has long preserved the inflammatory and purulent symptoms, and has given reason to the surgeon to suppose the patient had received a fresh infection. If the venereal virus should be absorbed, a confirmed pox may be the consequence, many years after the supposed cure. The matter is proved to be infectious by its easy communication by coition, and by a bougie smeared with the running, and applied to another urethra. In *Schola Medicinæ* there is a case of a young nobleman who poxed himself by only examining the running, to see if it roped, pressing the penis between his finger and thumb, having received a previous puncture on the finger, by which the infection was communicated.

Affections, &c.

V. The age, sex, and general habit of the person infected.

VI. The season of the year; for it is cured with greater facility in warm than in cold weather.

VII. If the disorder be not judiciously treated in the commencement, or during its progress, on which greatly depends the confirmed cure of recent venereal infection; or if patients be obstinate and negligent, and do not avoid cold, excesses in diet, or violent exercises, the present and future consequences may be very serious: amongst the former are, swelled testicles, buboes, inflammation of the prostate gland, abscesses in perinæo, and fistula in ano, long-continued, and sometimes incurable *gleets*, &c. &c. Amongst the latter, from the absorption of the venereal poison, by means of the lymphatic or absorbent system, the constitution becomes contaminated, very often, when neither physician nor patient suspect the evil; the venereal poison lies dormant for months, or years, and then shows itself in unequivocal symptoms, as ulcers in the throat, nose, and palate; venereal blotches in different parts of the body; in swelling and affection of the *periosteum* and bones, dreadful nightly pains in the parts, &c. caries, or *rottenness* of bones; loss of uvula, nose, palate, genital and other parts. Such are the prognostics, if the patients be inattentive to skilful advice when the disease is recent; and such may be the dreadful effects of injudicious treatment by *astringent injections*, or by depending on any method of cure without *mercury*.

VIII. A

Remedies and Treatment.

Whilst the purulent discharge continues, the same remedies are expedient, and should be repeated until the matter issuing from the urethra become white, viscid, or tenacious, and small in quantity: in this last, or *healing stage* of the disease, little medicine is necessary, since the powers of nature restore the parts to their pristine state. The abraded surface of the lining membrane of the urethra is healed, a bland mucus issues from the mucal glands, defending the passage from the sharpness of urine, and slight tickling sensation is felt in the urethra. If gleet remain, recourse may be had to terebinthinate balsams, tonics, cold bath, and similar remedies. If injections be applied, which are hazardous, nothing should be used stronger than those given in the formulæ for *gleets*.

Thus the cure is perfectly accomplished, without any apprehension of future ill consequences. If recent infection be thus treated, *strictures* of the urethra, or *confirmed poxes*, with all their train of horrid symptoms, would seldom be experienced.

It must be confessed that these modes of treatment are more tedious than some which have been adopted by many pretenders to *speedy cures*; but with every physician of integrity and skill, the *future security* of the patient should weigh down all other considerations. It is the duty of physic to perfect cures, not merely to please patients at the expense of their future health.

If by accident the mouth should become heated during this light exhibition

Affections, &c.

VIII. A sudden stoppage of the running, either by *accident or art*, is a bad sign; for this discharge is the *natural effort* the disease takes to assist in effecting a cure; it always continues in proportion to the malignity of the disease; it is similar to those mucal evacuations, so essentially beneficial in the cure of catarrh, inflammation of the lungs, &c. which no wise physician would suppress or counteract.

Profluvium mucosum glandis penis; or a discharge from the glans penis, caused by the matter of the *urethritis venerea* insinuating itself between the glans and penis.

Profluvium mucosum innocuum of the same part happens *without venereal infection*, from friction and heat in the act of coition.

Profluvium chronicum urethrale, called gleet, whether from laxity of the vessels, or an ulcer of the urethra.

Profluvium seminis involuntarium arising from debility, or a vice too common to youths.

If patients, dissatisfied with the judicious, safe, and successful modes of practice already described, and which have been firmly established by the most skilful practitioners, are determined to have the discharge checked by astringents, or to have what running may flow suppressed by art, before the infection is entirely removed; it is better, after coolly reasoning on the consequences, and mildly advising them not to persist in so hazardous a treatment, to suffer them to follow their own machinations. *Medicine may advise, but it cannot coerce*. It is possible such unruly patients may receive present consolation by *astringent* applications to the urethra, and they may meet with some artists ready to gratify their unreasonable desires on such occasions; but what are frequently, if not always the future consequences, either

Remedies and Treatment.

bition of *hydrargyrus*, aperients are to be repeated, and the use of mercury suspended. It is not intended to make the mouth sore, much less to excite salivation in the cure of the *urethritis venerea*, but to extinguish the venereal virus by the gentlest means; by administering smaller doses of mercurials than are usually prescribed, and continuing them for a longer time.

It is cured by the same means as the *urethritis venerea*.

Cured by saturnine lotions and unguents.

In the former, corroborants; in the latter, mercurials, are necessary, and sometimes medicated bougies.

Is cured by tonics, cold bath, and abstaining from the vicious act.

immediate or remote? If strictures do not soon follow in the urethra, and awaken the patient's sensibility to his danger; yet when the expulsive powers of the bladder in advanced life become weakened, and cannot overcome the resistance of the old contraction, formed by drying or desiccative injections, applied to the urethra, then the miserable effects of impeded urinal evacuations are wofully experienced. How many young men likewise have been rendered *impotent* all the remaining parts of their lives, from the impossibility of ejecting the semen in the act of coition, originating in the malpractice of astringent injections? Thousands of the aged have suffered alarming difficulties in voiding urine, from these irrational sources of juvenile impetuosity; thousands are now suffering from the same causes; and mankind will continue to suffer not only dreadful affections of the urethra, but subsequent confirmed poxes, as long as a vicious complaisance to the irrational desires of patients actuates many of the faculty more than sound judgment and integrity*.

* I remember a physician, who got immense riches, being asked, in company with a few of the profession, to communicate his secret, or to impart by what contrivances he acquired such considerable practice and wealth; for he was known not to be a conjuror as to professional skill. The arch accumulator of riches answered, "I do not pretend to the deepest professional skill, but I have studied how to accommodate my manners to the extravagant absurdities of mankind; I am *all things to all men*, and watch for the weak side of every one; and, in short, I never *contradicted a lady in my life*. Go ye, and do likewise."

A SHORT VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE RAVAGES OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE, IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY, WILL BE EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SUBSEQUENT ARRANGEMENT; TO WHICH ARE ADDED GENERAL MODES OF TREATMENT.

AFFECTIONS.

REMÉDIES and TREATMENT.

DISEASES OF THE PENIS.

URETHRITIS venerea, with running, heat in making water, called *dysuria*, &c.

BY cooling diet, by peniluvia, mucilaginous drinks, emollients and refrigerants, saline purges, and *nitre*, afterwards by mercurials†. If a gleet remain, by tonics, cold bath, &c.

† It has been a singular characteristic in the writings of the learned *Edinburgh professor*, the late *Doctor Cullen*, and some of his followers, to raise doubts, induce

Affections.

PARTIAL OR TOTAL SUPPRESSION OF URINE, OR ISCHURIA, frequently originating in the hazardous use of astringent injections.

CRYSTALLINE VESICLES, which precede chancres.

TUBERCLES, or small hard swellings on the penis.

ULCERS ON THE GLANS AND PREPUCE, called *chancres*, commonly succeeding vesicles.

ULCERS IN THE URETHRA, known

Remedies and Treatment.

By discovering and removing various causes, by *medicated* bougies, &c. whether it be caused by enlarged, indurated prostate gland, contractions of the passage, tubercles, callous ulcers, and swellings in the tuba, or from an old cicatrix, from repeated venereal infection.

By removing the vesicles by incision, and, afterwards, dressing the superficial ulcer with precipitate digestive, and promoting a discharge; by mercurials, &c.

To be resolved by mercurial fomentations, and by mercurials, internally.

By mercurial alteratives; as *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, by mercurial lotions, and digestive unguent; but never by *caustics*, lest the venereal virus be driven into the habit, which has often happened.

By mercurial alteratives internally, by the

induce the profession to enter into useless disputations, and very often on subjects that have been determined by the most accurate observation, and practical facts: this has been detrimental to the art in various instances, which young practitioners should be apprised of. Such is the doubt, whether NITRE be beneficial in removing urethral inflammation arising from venereal infection. If the joint testimony of all ages, and of the greatest practical physicians of all countries and times, long before the venereal disease was known in Europe; if the doctrines and observations of the greatest physicians amongst the moderns be admissible, NITRE must be admitted one of the most excellent antiphlogistics in the whole catalogue of refrigerants. That great man, Hoffman, wrote an entire treatise on its use. Hippocrates, Celsus, Aræteus, Galen, and all the ancients used this remedy. Boerhaave, Hoffman, and all the modern surgeons of eminence who have written on venereal complaints, have exhibited and recommended NITRE, and I have been witness to its great utility for above forty years, both in my own practice and that of my cotemporaries; and I can pronounce it, when joined with the *pulvis è tragacanth. comp.* to be one of the most efficacious remedies used in the cure of the heat of urine, in the gonorrhœa. *Hypothesis* will never overturn this fact; and in proportion as it is used judiciously, according to the state of different stomachs, it must always stand unrivalled as an excellent antiphlogistic in *urethritis venerea*, and in many other cases.

Affections.

known by an urethral discharge of purulent pus.

PARAPHYMOSIS, or impossibility to draw forward the prepuce.

PHYMOSIS, or impossibility to draw back the prepuce.

INVOLUNTARY ERECTION, or priapism.

INCREASED DESIRE OF VENERY, or satyriasis.

CHORDEE, or painful erection.

IMPOTENCE, from diminished energy in the nervous or muscular powers, or from contracted urethra.

DISEASES OF THE TESTICLES.

These frequently arise from the use of *astringent injections*; from cold, from immoderate exercise.

INFLAMMATION.

INDURATION, OR HARDNESS OF THE TESTICLE, epididymis, and cancer, &c.

Remedies and Treatment.

the solutio penetrans applied to the ulcer by means of a machine, by medicated bougies.

By oiling the part, or by applying simple ointment, then covering the part with a piece of linen, and gently drawing it down, by slight punctures, if there be crystallines; but this cautiously in bad habits, lest *gangrene ensue*.

By fomentations, by saline cathartics, if inflammatory; by mercurials, by mercurial and nitrous peniluvia.

By removing the causes of irritation, by camphor joined with opium, and hydrargyric pills, solutio gummofa hydrargyri, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis, and opium, camphor, &c.

By camphor, opium, and by removing evident causes, by cathartics, &c.

By emulsions of camphor, opium, and solutio hydrargyri gummofa, by peniluvium of poppy-heads, camphor, &c.

By removing the causes of debility, by increasing muscular power, by bark, zinc, and tonics; if from obstruction in the urethra, in consequence of former *astringent injections*, by medicated bougies, &c.

By repeated venesection, by a quarter of a grain of antimonium tartarifatum and half a grain of calomel, given every six hours; by solutions of nitre, saline cathartics, by fomentations of nitre and water, by a suspending truss, and low diet.

By *unguentum hydrargyri mitius*, with camphor and oil as a liniment, by mercurial and nitrous fomentations and poultices, by pilulæ fortissimæ, mitiores, and pulvis alterans purificans, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis,

*Affections.**Remedies and Treatment.*

ULCERS OF THE SCROTUM
succeed inflammation, abscess, increased quantities of fluid in the cellular structure, &c.

mercurialis, by mercury and antimony, nitre, &c. *

By cinnabarine fumigations *bis de die*, by solutio antimonialis mercurialis, solutio hydrargyri gummofa, dressings of hydrargyrus nitratus ruber and some ointment, by pilulæ alterantes; if with flaccid edges and livid in colour, by cort. Peruvianus, vitriolic acid, zincum vitriolatum, and tonics.

DISEASES OF THE PROSTATE
GLAND.

These most frequently happen from mal-treatment; but particularly by astringent injections.

Such cases require a speedy and spirited antiphlogistic treatment, or abscesses, and incurable ulcers, follow.

INFLAMMATION.

This is known by intense pain of the part, difficulty in voiding the urine, or total suppression.

By bleeding, reproducing the running, by a medicated bougie, by antiphlogistics, cooling cathartics, by bathing the perinæum and anus in a warm nitrous bath.

* A gentleman who laboured under a cancerous affection of the testicle, and who had taken that inefficacious drug hemlock, &c. was strenuously advised by a most eminent anatomist, in consultation with the late celebrated and excellent surgeon Mr. *Percival Pott*, to undergo castration, and the patient had consented. Understanding that the operation might put a period to his existence, he was making his will, when a friend, accidentally coming in, recommended him to have my opinion. On examining the case, I found it cancerous, with an enlarged and hardened spermatic chord. Dr. Kennedy, in Great Queen Street, was the gentleman who met me in consultation. I delivered my opinion: 1. That there was no urgent necessity for the operation. 2. That by an alterative mineral course there was some probability of curing the complaint, which had happened in many similar instances. 3. That if the means I wished to recommend failed, yet he might live, like many others, several years, without any great inconvenience from a schirrous testicle. Dr. Kennedy agreed to the plan of cure proposed, which was to give pilulæ alterantes fortiores ad gr. ij. ter die, and pulvis alterans purificans ad ℥ij. after each dose. These large doses the patient bore well, and was perfectly cured in about three months, by perseverance in the remedies, and by the application of unguentum hydrargyri camphoratum. It is fifteen years ago; the gentleman is now living and in excellent health. Thus was a human being snatched from a cruel operation, which might have bereaved the world and his friends of a valuable life.

*Affections.**Remedies and Treatment.*

ABSCESS AND ULCERS.

This is known by the abscess bursting in the urethra, and discharge of purulent pus, by pain, or by suppuration *in perinæo*, or about the anus.

SCHIRRUS, OR INDURATION.

By mercurials, a proper regimen, terebinthinate remedies, gum olibanum, and, sometimes, by medicated bougies, according to circumstances.

By *pilulæ alterantes mitiores, fortiores, fortissimæ*; by mercurial ointments with camphor applied to the perineum; by fumigations of cinnabar to the same part; by *solutio mercurialis*, and nitre *.

DISEASES OF THE PERINÆUM
AND ANUS.

FISTULA OF THE PERINÆUM commonly arises from abscess succeeding *suppressed running*. Sometimes the urine passes through two or three openings: dreadful situation!

By *causticum camphoratum*, opening the external orifice; by the immision of sponge tent, repeatedly and long continued, armed with precipitate digestive; by bougies, or by flexible catheters, to prevent injuries of the cellular structure; by cinnabarine fumigations, camphorated mercurial ointments, and by mercurials internally, and alteratives, as *solutio antimoniæ mercurialis*, &c.

* Inoculation of the venereal infection, by means of a bougie, with matter of a person labouring under recent venereal *urethritis*, has been practised in the cure of hardened testicles, by reproducing the suppressed running; but I do not think such practice moral or justifiable.

This has been done and published by *Hirschel*, at Berlin, 1766. A bougie was introduced into the urethra of a man infected with the venereal gonorrhœa (*urethritis venerea*), which remained in the urethra some hours, until the bougie was well covered with matter. Then being withdrawn, it was immediately introduced into the urethra of a man who had suffered under a suppressed gonorrhœa, and was kept in the urethra five or six hours, until the scalding, and running, with the other symptoms of gonorrhœa, re-appeared. The military surgeon *Odenkirchen* applied this mode to a soldier, who had laboured under an indurated testicle, enlarged to the size of two fists, as hard as wood, from a suppressed gonorrhœa of four years standing; and repeating the plan, he cured the soldier. Inoculation from *gonorrhœa benigna* did not succeed. This experiment, though successful, will rarely be repeated; but it proves how *harmless* and *innocent* the *venereal poison* in urethra is; for this innocent matter can communicate the *virus* without coition: hence the necessity of keeping the end of the penis clean in the disorder, &c.

Affections.

FISTULA OF THE ANUS
more frequently arises from venereal affections ill cured, than from any other cause. That excellent surgeon, Mr. Samuel Sharp, observes, that there are few he could not trace to arise from the *venereal virus*.

CONTRACTION OF THE ANUS.

This arises spontaneously from the venereal virus, but is not frequent, and is commonly spasmodic from nervous consent of parts.

VENEREAL WARTS AND EXCRESCENCES.—These are sometimes proofs of venereal infection, sometimes not.

BUBOES, OR SWELLINGS OF THE LYMPHATIC GLANDS OF THE GROIN.—These commonly originate from suppressing the running by styptic injections.

Remedies and Treatment.

By attention to circumstances; if external, by the modes already recited; and to be cautious about a too free use of the knife, unless pressing symptoms render it necessary.

Fistulæ connected with diseased prostate gland, or vesiculæ seminales, are difficult of cure, but should be attempted by the means recommended in fistula of the perinæum, with attention to circumstances.

Internal fistula should be attempted by injecting solutio hydrargyri muriati, by fumigations and mercurial alteratives; by which means many have been cured without cutting, or greatly relieved.

First by bougies with unguentum hydrarg. camphoratum, afterwards large sponge tents with the same unguentum; but if dilatation be impracticable by these means, scarifications are to be made, according to the plan of *Brambilla*, joined to the internal use of the above medicines, with mercurials and camphor, internally.

By *causticum camphoratum penicillo applicandum*, whether in the vagina, on the prepuce or glans penis, or near the anus, &c. From their variety of figure they have acquired many names. I have known them sometimes drop off under a mercurial course; at other times repeated salivations fail of removing them.

If inflamed and tending to abscess, suppurating cataplasms are to be applied, and afterwards opened by incision; if indurated, unguentum hydrargyri camphoratum is to be well rubbed on the under part of the penis, groins, and inner part of the thighs. In both cases mercurial alteratives are necessary, not only during, but after the cure, lest any taint of the venereal poison remain, or be conveyed to the constitution.

*Affections.**Remedies and Treatment.*

CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

Copper-coloured venereal spots, scabs, fissures, or cracks in the palms of the hands, pustules, serpentine eruptions, tinea or scald head, falling off of the hair and nails, itching, spots resembling leprosy, cutaneous ulcerations, commonly accompanied with other signs of chronic venereal infection.

All these varieties, as they spring from one source, are to be treated in a similar manner; by mercurial alteratives, as *pilulæ alterantes fortissimæ*, *fortiores*, *mitiores*, and by mercurial frictions, every second or third night, without exciting salivation, or by *solutio antimonalis mercurialis*, especially if the periosteum of bones be affected, causing nighty pains in the shins, arms, &c.; and by mercurial lotions, by light salivation, if accompanied with diseases of the periosteum, or bones, &c.

IN THE EYES.

INFLAMMATION, OR OPHTHALMIA.

This is sometimes conveyed by the fingers rubbing the eyes during a venereal running, or occasioned by a suppressed running.

By mercurial alteratives and the lotio penetrans. I have known opacities of the cornea, and blindness, to ensue before the causes were known. See third volume of the *Rational Practice of Physic*.

EXUDATION OF PUS FROM THE EYE-LIDS.

To be treated on a plan similar to the foregoing, and with *aqua ophthalmica gummosa*, ever avoiding *poultices* in all diseases of the eyes, lest suppuration happen*.

SPOTS OR SPECKS ON THE CORNEA, from inspissation of fluid in the *laminæ*, &c.

By the external use of the *lotio penetrans*; internally, by *solutio antimonalis-mercurialis cum nitro*, or other mercurial alteratives; *solutio hydrargyri gummosa*; *pilulæ alterantes*, &c.; according to cases and constitutions.

ULCERS OF THE CORNEA.

By similar methods, or with *aqua ophthalmica gummosa*.

PUS, OR MATTER IN THE EYE-BALL.

If formed under the cornea, the eye sometimes bursts, the humours are evacuated, and an incurable blindness must be the consequence.

FISTULA LACHRYMALIS.

According to art and circumstances, by

* See third volume of *Rational Practice of Physic*, on eye diseases, particularly *ophthalmia venerea*, &c.

Affections.

Arising from obstruction, or disease of the ductus lachrymalis, and known by tears or matter flowing down the cheek, &c.

LEPRA VENEREA, or venereal leprosy, when the two evils are joined with falling off of hair, crusted eruptions, &c.

TUMOURS ON THE MARGIN OF THE EYE-LIDS are various, as hordeolum, &c. See vol. iii. Rational Practice.

LOSS OF SIGHT sometimes arises from violent salivations, from cold, from internal disease, from stopping the running by astringents, &c.

AFFECTION OF THE EARS, OR COPHOSIS.

This is a perfect or imperfect deafness from the venereal poison, arising either from suppressed *running*, caries of the bones, of the ear, from some venereal vice of the fauces, or morbid effect of the structure of the ear, ulcer, &c.

OF THE NOSE.

Ulceration, known by snuffing, a discharge of fetid matter, or is visible.

Remedies and Treatment.

the lotio penetrans, by mercurial alteratives, and, in some cases, by an operation to liberate the obstructed nasal duct. See third volume of *Rational Practice of Physic*.

Cured by *solutio hydrarg. muriati* *; or by *Ward's White Drop*, which preparation being long published, is not, as formerly, a quack medicine.

To be destroyed by the causticum camphoratum, if indurated and troublesome; if suppurating or encysted, to be opened at a proper time, and by destroying the cyst, or they return; by mercurial alteratives.

By various remedies, according to causes, whether in the cornea transparens, from turbid aqueous humour, from opacity of the crystalline lens, or its capsule; from contracted, or from immoveable pupils, cataract, gutta ferena, &c.

Internally, by mercurial alteratives; externally, by cinnabarine fumigations, lotio penetrans, &c. The fumigation to be conveyed by an instrument, that I invented many years ago, which is quite superior to the common fumigating machine. It is an iron funnel, about eighteen inches long, curved at the top, to which is added a quill or ivory tube, to diminish the heat of the iron, whilst the fume is passing.

By cinnabarine fumigations, by *solutio antimonialis mercurialis*, mercurial frictions at proper distances, so as not to salivate; by injections of *hydrargyrus muriatus* dissolved in *aqua*, cautiously applied.

* I have had an instance of a woman in Davies Street, where the eruption scaled in a surprising quantity. See likewise Raymond, *Traité des Maladies qu'il est dangereux de guerir*; and, *Dissertatione sopra le Malatie, che si curano nel regio Spedale di S. EUSEBIO in Fiorenze*. Nihil frequentius est connubio leprosi et venerei dicit SCHILLING in suo libro de Lepra, p. 39.

*Affections.*LOSS OR DEFORMITY OF THE
NOSE.

This is occasioned by the destruction of the septum and nasal bones. It makes a man appear like a monkey, or ape; miserable effect of venereal poison, neglect, or ill-treated recent infection! I have known some instances where I could trace the loss of the nose to the improper use of *astringent injections*, or by treating the venereal virus without its grand specific, mercury, when recent.

OF THE MOUTH.

APHTHÆ, OR LITTLE ULCERS.

These arise from sucking infected nurses, or from confirmed lues.

VENEREAL ULCERS OF THE
LIPS, MOUTH, AND PALATE.

These have arisen from merely kissing, lasciviously, an infected person with ulcers of the venereal kind in the mouth, &c.

OF THE NECK AND FAUCES.

Scrophulous swellings, or king's evil of the neck, throat, or of any lymphatic gland, from venereal causes.

SORE THROAT.

This is known by difficulty in swallowing, with or without venereal ulcers, or inflammation, hoarseness, &c. and is generally visible, by examining the fauces.

Remedies and Treatment.

It is incurable; but if accompanied with ulceration, fumigations should be used; and afterwards the only remedy is an artificial nose: miserable recourse!

Before the misfortune happens, every method art can suggest should be skilfully applied, according to the various circumstances; for sometimes the uvula, palate, and fauces, are complicated in the dreadful case, the treatment of which requires the utmost circumspection.

The venereal deformities have been accurately supplied by the ingenious *M. De Chemant*, now in London.

By solutio hydrargyri gummosa saccharata, in children, and by the general methods in other instances.

By fumigations of cinnabar bis de die, by mercurials, or alteratives, until the ulcers be healed, and the venereal poison extinguished; and by a continuance of the remedies for some time after all the symptoms have disappeared. The same should be observed in all chronic venereal cases.

By mercurial alteratives; as pilulæ alterantes, mercurial courses; and when it happens to infants, from infected parents, by similar means.

By antiphlogistics joined with mercurials, if inflamed; if tending to gangrene, in bad habits, by antiseptics and tonics, as bark, vitriolic acid, &c. The virus of the disease remaining must be treated with the mildest mercurial alteratives, until the lues be perfectly extinguished.

*Affections.**Remedies and Treatment.*

OF THE BONES,

As nodes or tophs, thickened periosteum of the middle part, or extremities of bones, &c. They happen in the *tibia*, or shin bone, forehead, and other bones, sternum, &c. which if the periosteum be detached, a caries is the consequence.

CARIES, OR ROTTENNESS.

This, sometimes, arises from a too long continued use of *mercurial frictions*, and from too severe salivations.

SPINA VENTOSA.

This is the corruption of bones, beginning internally, and passing through the whole substance, enlarging the bone, and appearing externally; sometimes ulcerated, sometimes not.

SOFTNESS OF THE BONES, OR BRITTLENESS.

The former is known by a decrease of stature, curvature of bones; the latter by fracture, on slight occasions.—A more wretched situation for a human being can rarely be conceived.

In the *Salpetriere* at *Paris*, amongst the incurables, these dreadful calamities are seen, the effects of bad practice, &c.

OF THE JOINTS, AS GANGLI-ONS, ANCHYLOSIS VENEREA, OR IMMOBILITY OF THE JOINT.

These may arise from diseased synovial glands, from deposition of fluid, when absorption is impeded, or from the absence of secretion.

Externally, by perpetual vesicatories, or blisters, applied to the swellings, to prevent formation of matter, and detachment of the *periosteum*, which are generally followed by caries, or rotten bones. Internally, solutioantimonialis mercurialis; externally, mercurial frictions, by salivations, judiciously raised and gently continued.

By waiting the exfoliation of bones, by diminishing or suspending the use of mercury, by the use of bark, decoction of sarsaparilla and milk, with attention to the existing circumstances.

If not ulcerated, by mercurials, freely used internally and externally; by frictions with camphor; or by applying unguentum hydrarg. camphorat. in a poultice. If greatly enlarged, ulcerated, and incurable, by other means, amputation of the part, if possible, is necessary.

These cases are generally incurable. Mercury sometimes aggravates all the symptoms, and these affections sometimes arise from too *severe salivations*; or too long continued use of mercury.

By applications and remedies, according to circumstances; by bark, vitriolated zinc, tonics, and similar remedies, which help to repair the broken constitution, and by surgical assistance, suspending the use of mercury.

These deep-seated complaints are generally irremediable; for not only the bones and periosteum are affected; but cartilages covering the heads of bones, concretions of joints, are the consequence.

Antivenereal fomentations and baths, the most penetrating mercurials, perpetual blisters, &c. are proper.

Affections.

WHITE SWELLINGS are more common in the knee than any other joint; they, however, happen in the elbow, and even in the wrists.

CONTRACTIONS

Chiefly arise from diseased tendons and nervous obstructions, &c. chronic spasms, &c.

DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN.

OF THE GENITAL PARTS.

LEUCORRHOEA VENEREA is a discharge from the vagina, arising from venereal infection, with heat in the urine, &c.

SWELLING AND INFLAMMATION OF THE LABIA PUDENDI AND OTHER PARTS, ABSCESS, WITH SCIRRHUS, &c.

INDURATION.—Sometimes the scirrhi of the labia are incurable, except by operation—dreadful alternative!

ULCERS OF THE VULVA are similar to *chancres* of the glans penis of men, which should never be treated with caustics, as I have known them to produce future poxes.

ULCERS OF THE VAGINA: similar to the former, in which caustical applications should be avoided, and a discharge promoted.

AFFECTIONS OF THE UTERUS.—Inflammation, scirrhus, or ulcer

Remedies and Treatment.

Frequently incurable; but should be attempted by blisters, long continued, by powerful mercurial courses, yet managed so as not to produce violent effects on the constitution, by alteratives, &c. mercurial fomentations and cataplasms, &c.

These are rarely cured; but causes, as far as possible, should be investigated and removed by mercurial fomentations, ointments, solutio antimonialis mercurialis, by pilulæ alterantes, &c. &c.

By means similar to those recommended in the *urethritis venerea* of men, only in smaller doses and the most gentle remedies, yet always sufficient to exterminate the poisonous venereal infection.

By antiphlogistics, light saline aperients, by fomentation of nitrous solutions and cataplasmata emollientia, by removing original causes, and the judicious application of mercurials, by a seton.

To be treated in a method similar to that recommended in the affections of testicles in men, but by milder preparations, and in smaller doses.

By washing the affected parts with solutio hydrargyri muriati, and dressing them with ung. digestiv. præcipitat. rubr.: if difficult of cure, by cinnabarine fumigations, by solutio antimonialis to the strong, and solutio hydrargyri gummosa to the delicate of constitution.

By washing the affected parts with solutio hydrargyri muriati, and dressing them with precipitate digestive; by fumigations and internally mercurials.

If either scirrhus, or ulcer, very difficult of cure, or incurable; but to be attempted by

Affections.

ulcer of the os uteri, happen from venereal virus.

In some few instances, but very rarely, have I been able to cure *ulcus uteri*. See my Treatise on Cancers, to prevent impositions of pretenders.

OF THE BREASTS,

INFLAMMATION. — The breasts of women have been inflamed by infants sucking, who have had from birth *lues venerea*.

ULCERATION succeeds to inflammation and abscess; and incurable scirrhi, and cancer to these, are subsequents.

The scirrhus in the first stage is sometimes curable; operations in the scirrhi succeed for a time, but the disease after, often breaks out with redoubled violence. See Treatise on Cancers, &c.

INTERNAL AFFECTIONS OF
THE VENEREAL DISEASE,
COMMON TO BOTH SEXES.

FEVERS.

In the inflammatory stage of the *urethritis venerea* from swelled and inflamed prostate, testicles, prepuce, glans, or groin, throat, and fauces; arising from the venereal virus causing inflammation, or the sudden vanishing of buboes, or other venereal symptoms, from impure coition, not affecting the genital parts, from the running suppressed, and absorption of the virus into the constitution, exciting fevers.

Remedies and Treatment.

by mercurial alteratives, as *pilulæ alterantes fortiores*, &c. by injections of *solutio hydrargyri muriati*, and attention to circumstances; by opiates. In these cases a complete knowledge of *midwifery* is necessary, particularly the touch.

By bleeding, antiphlogistic aperients, and saline remedies, by suppurative poultices, if tending to abscess, by mercurial alteratives afterwards, if induration remain, by *pilulæ alterantes fortiores*, &c.

By pledgets of precipitate digestive with mercurials, internally, as alteratives, &c.

There are varieties of female disease that arise from venereal infection, difficult to discover; therefore penetration, caution, and prudence, are very necessary in practitioners, lest they be deceived. The delicacy of the sex frequently compels them to conceal what the medical art must comprehend.

By venæsection, antiphlogistics, and saline purges, with mercurials, as *solutio antimonialis mercurialis cum nitro*, *solutio hydrargyri gummosa*, with nitre and tartarised antimony, saline draughts, and camphor, with antimonial diaphoretics, continually preserving a moderate perspiration through the whole cure. By well comprehending indications, contra-indications, symptoms, and curative intentions. By reproducing the running, by means of medicated bougies, which see hereafter,

Affections.

ERUPTIVE FEVERS, if not putrid-tending.

NERVOUS SLOW FEVERS.

BILIOUS FEVERS.

HECTIC.—This arises from concealed or open ulcers, causing absorption and consumption of the body, coughs, &c.

INTERMITTENT.—They happen in moist places, in cold air, from long-continued east and north-east winds. They are either quotidian, tertian, or quartan.

SPASMODIC AFFECTIONS.

TETANUS, OR SPASMODIC RIGIDITY.

This is an universal rigidity of the muscles of the whole body.

Episthotonos and emprosthotonos are partial contractions of the muscles of the neck.

Trismus, or locked jaw: this happens sometimes from too strong salivations.

EPILEPSY, OR CONVULSED FITS, arise from various causes of irritation, caries of bones, &c.

OF THE SENSES.

LANGUOR, commonly arising from debility, diminished nervous powers, &c.

Remedies and Treatment.

By means similar to those recommended above, or by pilulæ alterantes cum haustu salino, by volatile saline draughts, cum antimonio tartarifato, camphor, snakeroot, &c.

By bark, vitriolated zinc ad gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ vel $\frac{1}{2}$ dissolved, by alteratives mane et nocte.

By sapo, pilulæ hydrargyri and rhubarb, by kali acetatum, sal polychrest. &c. &c.

By solutio hydrarg. gummosa, camphor, antimon. tart. and saline remedies; pilula hydrarg. cum pilula scillitica et pilula e styrace, &c.

If idiopathic from venereal virus, by mercurials and antimonials; if accessoria, arising from its own cause in venereal patients, by cortex, zincum vitriolatum during the intermissions and mercurials, with antimonials during the febrile paroxysm.

By musk, camphor, mercurial alteratives, warm nitrous baths, opium, and all antispasmodics; but they frequently fail. I have given an account of six remarkable cases of tetanus and locked-jaw, cured by pilulæ alterantes fortiores, and camphor, &c. See vol. ii. of *Rational Practice of Physic*, where may be seen numerous practical remarks and prescriptions for all nervous affections, madness, &c. and a treatise on suicide.

By bleeding, fetid gums, cathartics, camphor, opium, mercurials; if with debility, bark, flowers of zinc, bitters, and tonics, Hoffman's anodyne liquor, in camphor-julep, cinnabar and camphor, &c.

By zincated and vitriolic preparations; bark, chalybeates, bitters, volatiles, and cardiacs; and by removing causes, blisters, electricity, &c.

Affections.

PALSY.—Partial or total abolition of muscular powers. See Palsy, in the Treatise on Nervous Diseases, &c. At the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary many cases have been cured from various causes.

PAINFUL AFFECTIONS, arise from various causes, irritating the nervous system, &c.

VIOLENT HEAD-ACH.—More violent at night than in the day, and often very severe.

WANT OF SLEEP AT NIGHT, WITH OR WITHOUT PAIN.—Persons affected with *lues*, of delicate, nervous, and irritable habits, often suffer great inquietude from mental and corporeal irritation.

COLIC.—This may arise from checked running, or latent venereal affection, from obstinate constipation, flatus, violent effects of mercurials on the nervous intestinal canal, or nervous sensibility.

RHEUMATISM, ISCHIATICA.—The former pains in the muscles, between the joints, the latter in the hip joint.

DIFFICULTY OF BREATHING.—From cold during a mercurial course, or by sudden change of air, from pulmonic and other causes, a north-east wind, &c.

Remedies and Treatment.

By blisters and liniments, to be applied not only where the lameness appears, but on or near the nerve, or nerves, that send branches or furculi to the part, if possible; by pilulæ alterantes, mercuriales, common salt and warm water baths, tonics, volatiles, &c.

By removing causes, if discoverable; if from inflammation, by bleeding, &c.; if from great irritation, by camphor, opium, and other narcotics.

By blisters, applied to the neck, between the shoulders, solutio antim. mercurialis, by mercurials as alteratives, or light salivants.

By removing immediate or accidental causes, by solutio antimonialis mercur. camphor, and opium; if from topks on the ribs, pain in the side, sternum, or periosteal affection, mercurials, or salivants, blisters to the parts, removing caries, or diseased part of bones, and by applying medicines according to circumstances.

By bleeding, eccoprotic, or lenient purgatives of kali tartarifat. mauna, fenna, oleum ricini, rhubarb, calomel, and bitter cathartics, in obstinate costiveness; by solutio hydrargyri gummosa.—The arthritic stomach cannot bear mercurials united with mineral acids, but hydrargyric gumpills, or frictions, should be used, in a very gentle manner, and with great caution.

These are curable only by mercurials or mercurial alteratives; solutio antimonialis cum camphore et opio, mercurial pediluvia, and universal warm baths.

By bleeding, blisters to the scrobiculus cordis, nitre, antimony, and camphor, solutio antimon. merc. with camphor, &c. If chronic, by pilulæ à scilla cum pil. hydrargyri, lac ammon. and volatiles, according to present circumstances.

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COUGH.—From similar causes to the former.

HOARSENESS.—This arises from ulceration of the larynx, or from latent venereal infection.

FLUXES FROM VARIOUS PARTS.—**VENEREAL SALIVATION.**

FREQUENT DESIRE OF GOING TO STOOL, OR TENESMUS.—This is attended with mucal discharge, arising, sometimes, from consent of parts, in inflammations of the prostate, neck of the bladder, about the verumontanum, from abscess, or ulcers of those parts, &c. The most frequent causes are checking the venereal running by *astringent injections*, and other mal-practices, from ulcer in the rectum, condylomata, &c.

Flowing of purulent matter with the urine, from ulcers of the kidneys, bladder, or urethra. These have followed the use of *astringents*, and are sometimes incurable.

Emaciations, or wasting of the body, called venereal consumptions.

These arise from various causes: from venereal profuse discharges; from induration of the mesenteric glands; from latent lues venerea; from nocturnal pains; venereal ulcers of the uterus, or of the lungs; ulcers of

Remedies and Treatment.

By methods similar to the last, by light opiates joined with mercurials, paregoric elixir, and tinctura scillæ.

By cinnabarine fumigations, lightly received, mercurial-gum solution, solutio antimon. merc. &c.

When too copious, to be restrained by abstaining from mercury, and, according to circumstances, by sulphureous preparations, crude antimony in honey, &c.

By unguent. hydrarg. camphorat. applied to the perinæum, sitting in warm mercurial baths, clysters of solutio hydrarg. gummosa, camphor, warm water and opium. Internally, mild cathartics: in inflammation, the running should be reproduced by *medicated bougies*, and every method used to cure by resolution: for no physician can foresee the ill consequences of ulcers of the prostate, perinæum, or rectum. Opiates and oleaginous remedies are sometimes useful. Ulcers of the rectum are frequently curable by *pulv. alterans purificans*, long continued.

If from the neck of the bladder, it is attended with excruciating pain; if from the urethra, less pain is felt, frequently none.

By removing the causes of ulcers, as in other venereal cases: this is assisted by mercurial detergent injections, solutio antimonialis mercurialis, &c. if in the urethra.

All these species are to be skilfully treated, according to circumstances, climate, seasons of the year, ages, sexes, and constitutions of patients, as in all other affections.

By antivenereal remedies, either light mercurials, or alteratives, with camphor, antimony, pectorals, &c. and tonics; where there are no contra-indications, or symptoms that prevent their use. To well

cons-

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of the medulla of bones; venereal induration, and tubercles of the lungs, &c. &c.

OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE
IN PREGNANT WOMEN.

Under this head are considered those who conceive, and often *contaminate the fetus* with the *venereal virus*; either from local infection in the genitals, or chronic venereal disease of the constitution. I have seen many shocking cases of this nature, and some wherein neither father nor mother knew they had the disease, until it appeared in their offspring. Some of these instances have been so intricate, that they could scarcely be accounted for; but there are many similar and incontrovertible facts, that cannot be always explained!

OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE
OF INFANTS.

Children, whose parents were infected, are frequently born with the most evident and unequivocal marks of the disorder, many instances of which I have observed at the hospitals and in private practice.

They are born with copper-coloured spots about the anus, perinæum, vulva, scrotum, and sometimes in every part of the body; excoriations and superficial lardaceous ulcers succeed in a few weeks, or months; the fauces and lips are cracked and eroded;

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comprehend contra-indications in all diseases, is one of the most essential attributes, and sublimest perfection of the science of medicine.

In all the methods of cure applied during pregnancy, the contra-indications to common methods of cure should be well considered, and the most gentle courses adopted. If mercurial frictions be preferred, they should be very mild, and used at the distance of two or three days. The *pilulæ hydrargyri*, *pilulæ hydrargyri gummosæ*, *solutio hydrargyri gummosa*, *syrupus hydrargyri gummosus*, are the most excellent remedies during pregnancy, in small doses, at proper intervals.

By these means I have cured many pregnant women, and have seen infants, under such circumstances, born without the horrid disease, who are now living instances of the utility of midwifery science in treating the *lues* of pregnant women; otherwise abortions might have happened, &c.

In all these miserable instances of human affliction, the science of medicinally treating children's diseases should be well comprehended, lest, in attempting to cure the disease, an injudicious application of remedies kill the innocent babes, whose birth to misfortune merits the most humane commiseration.

The methods appropriate to the cure, after well considering the contra-indications, are, the use of gentle frictions applied to the mother, if the child should suck; or the lightest anti-venereal remedies may be given to the wet-nurse, if such can be procured. If

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eroded: hoarseness of voice, nightly cryings, difficulty of swallowing, wastings, and a miserable death!

This is called *lues venerea con-nata infantum*; to distinguish it from *lues latens*, which flows itself after birth, with *lipitudo* and other symptoms of lues; and also from *lues acquisita*, or that which is acquired by sucking an infected nurse. In the Treatise on Diseases of the Eyes there is a remarkable case of a nurse infecting the infant, and the infant the mother, &c.

OF THE LATENT LUES VE-
NEREA.

The venereal virus, or poison, may lie concealed in the constitution, without any manifest signs of the disease, and yet sometimes infect by the act of coition. It is uncertain how long the venereal poison may lurk in the habit before it breaks forth in evident symptoms; but in the course of my extensive and long practice, I have known it, from the best information I could collect, in various instances, where in there could be no reason for deception, or duplicity in the patient, to have remained lurking in the constitution many months or years.

OF THE LARVATED LUES.

This is a species of venereal disease, not appearing in the usual form in the genitals, &c. &c.; but under the mask of other disorders,

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the infant should not suck, or be prevented from chaps and ulcerations about the lips, or mouth, which are not unfrequent, then frictions of *unguentum hydrargyri mitius* reduced by adding three-fourths of *adeps suillæ*, may be applied to the extremities every second, or third night, as circumstances may admit; and proper internal remedies are to be applied, to prevent or check fluxes, or other disastrous effects of the disease, or its remedies.

Infants, likewise, may take small doses of the syrupus hydrargyri guminosus, or hydrarg. cum creta; but most preparations of mercury combined with mineral acids are too powerful for both mothers and infants.

By methods already described, always acting according to circumstances, age, sex, constitution, &c. &c.

When the lues venerea may be reasonably supposed to be lurking in the habit, without any manifest tokens, the administration of antimony with mercury will sometimes expel the virus towards the skin, and produce venereal blotches or eruptions. In some instances I have discovered the venereal virus to be in the constitution, by giving pilulæ alterantes, solutio antimon. merc. &c.

These remedies determining the disease to the cutis, manifested the causes that before were undiscovered.

By means already mentioned under the particular heads of Fevers, Colic, Languor, &c. These cases are very difficult to discriminate; but by accurate examination

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disorders, as fever, cough, colic, languor, palsy, &c.

OF THE LUES VENEREA complicated with other Diseases, as the Scurvy, Scrophula, Leprosy, or with acute Diseases, as Fevers inflammatory and bilious, or with Diseases from excessive Venery.

Persons afflicted with the lues venerea are not preserved from the plague, as some have imagined, more attached to idle speculations than a scrutinizing attention to absolute facts in practice, on which alone physicians should form and confirm their professional judgment.

The venereal disease is sometimes complicated with chronic rheumatism, exciting nocturnal muscular pains; at other times, with the gout, with fixed pains in the joints: in the dura mater it causes dreadful chronic headaches.

The lues venerea is sometimes complicated with diseases arising from mercury, &c. Hence fevers, hæmorrhages, fluxes, ulcers of the mouth and fauces, corroding the cheek and other parts from an immoderate use of mercury, especially from too severe salivations excited by mercurial frictions, &c. depositions of mercury in various parts, but particularly in the bones, from which arise direful pains, tremors, rheumatisms, spitting of blood, languor,

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tion of patients, they are sometimes, though not always, discoverable.

In the lues complicated with sea and land scurvy, in debilitated habits, mercurials cannot be admitted, except in the gentlest manner, and joined with antimonial sulphurs, until the constitution be restored by a skilful administration of the remedies and diet appropriate to those disorders.

When complicated with scrophula, symptoms of which sometimes arise from colds, during a mercurial course, or with leprosy, *pilulæ alterantes* are most proper, and they should be long continued night and morning; if the scrophulous tumours be *hard*, nitre and camphor may be taken, in addition to the pills; if *soft* and spongy, with evident relaxation of the cellular structure, a judicious application of tonics should be administered, in the middle of the day, whilst the resolvent alteratives are taken night and morning. If complicated with fevers, cooling saline remedies, and bleeding, in the inflammatory kind; in low, nervous, and putrid fevers, tonics and antiseptics are proper. See Treatment of Fevers in the *Rational Practice of Physic*, vol. iv.

If with disorders from too much venery, or pollutions; passions must be restrained, and proper diet, with tonic remedies, instituted, according to circumstances, constitutions, ages, &c. The use of mercury must be suspended, decoctions of bark, sarsaparilla, tonics, and chalybeates, in debility; in hæmorrhages, preparations of zinc and tonics, not irritating, to restrain the blood and brace the habit. Fevers must be treated according to their species. The effects of mercury are counteracted by sulphureous preparations; as baths with hepar sulphuris; flores sulphuris, lac sulphuris,

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guor, epileptic fits, and many chronic affections.

Wepfer and others have found crude mercury in the head, and in different parts of the body. Diseased bones are very common in the museums of anatomists, and some dreadful to behold, the frightful effects of venereal contagion, badly treated; or they have originated in the neglect or perverseness of patients, who, in direct opposition to the most excellent advice, will fly to quackery, or pursue their irregularities during a mercurial course, and thus bring misery and destruction on themselves and rising generation.

It is melancholy to reflect that numbers are injured by mal-practices, as well as their own perverseness and negligence, and by thinking too slightly of recent venereal affections.

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phuris, crude antimony, prepared and mixed in sugar, honey, &c. Chronic affections should be treated according to cases, with antimony, guaiacum, decoction of the woods, &c. warm sulphureous baths, and by ever avoiding to exhibit remedies worse, or stronger than the disease that medicine has to encounter.

To know the relative powers of disease, the strength of constitution, from the countenance and form of body, the force of medicines to be prescribed to remove causes in different habits, even in the same disease, are amongst the most important *desiderata* of practical medicine, without which it must be often vacuous, or unsuccessful. Symptoms specify disease; but the most sensible indications of cure are often collected from the peculiar complexion of patients: therefore physicians should possess quick penetrating eyes, to discriminate, and the clearest intellects, to reason and decide. The physiognomy of patients indicates, and as frequently determines *quid est agendum*, as the most obvious symptoms of disease.

OF PREVENTIVES.

MANY celebrated practitioners have recommended preventives against venereal infection. Some, who have conceived the disorder to be of an *alkaline nature*, have used acids, or lemon-juice diluted: others, who have supposed, with as little regard to truth, that the infectious particles were acid, or only entangled in the urethral mucus, have recommended volatile and other *alkalis*, even *lixivium saponarium*, or caustic alkali diluted, as injections and lotions. From the use of this last I have seen dreadful effects, as violent inflammations of the penis, swelled testicles, and bloody urine; and I have known numerous instances, wherein the other pretended preventives have absolutely failed. Unctuous or oleaginous substances, united with camphor and mucilages, similar to the injection No. 1.; or unguentum album camphoratum, combined with ung. hydrarg. applied to the under surface of the

the prepuce and to the glans penis; a little of the same ointment, or injection, introduced by a fine hair pencil, about an inch or two up the urethra, immediately before coition, and washing afterwards, have, to my own knowledge, prevented venereal infection in numerous instances; for which very sensible reasons might be given; but if friction in the act of coition should rub off all the ointment, or expose the absorbents or urethra to the reception of the minute, penetrating, infectious particles of the disease, all those attempts at prevention may prove abortive.

FORMULÆ MEDICAMENTORUM, OR FORMS OF PRESCRIPTIONS.

NO. 1. INJECTIO HYDRARGYRI GUMMOSA.

R Ung. hydrarg. fort. ʒij,
Vitel. ovorum duorum, vel
Mucilag. gummi arab. ʒʒ ad ʒvj,
Olei amygdalæ ʒijʒ,
Aquæ puræ ʒijʒ. Fiat injectio.

NO. 2. INJECTIO MERCURIALIS.

R Mercurii vivi depurati ʒj,
Gummi arab. electi ʒʒ.
Contere in mukum, adde sensim
conterendo Aquæ puræ lbj.
Misceantur, fiat injectio.

NO. 3. INJECTIO HYDRARGYRI.

R Hydr. muriati gr. j. Solve in
aquæ distillatæ ʒvijʒ.
Mucilag. gummi arab. ʒʒ.
M. fiat injectio, ter vel quater de
die, utenda ope syphonis.

The elastic gum machine, with a conic-formed ivory tube, is more convenient than a syringe. I was one of the first, above thirty years ago, who introduced this improvement.

With the first of these injections I have cured an immense number of virulent gonorrhœas, by sheathing the urinary passage, and applying the specific mercury in its simplest form, to destroy the poisonous contaminating particles: but it was never used

unless the disease were very recent, and before the purulent stage appeared.

It has been seldom recommended for many years, though an excellent remedy, from the few opportunities offering to administer it, in the first stage of the disease. I always, or most commonly, prescribed mucilaginous drinks, with or without nitre during its exhibition, and gentle antiphlogistic eccoprotics. The scalding, or *ardor urinæ*, was seldom experienced, the *purulent* stage of the disease was slight and short, the *mucal* discharge was much expedited, and this was left to diminish daily, until the running entirely ceased, for I never ordered *astringent injections*.

To secure the patient from all future ill consequences, I gave, internally, some light *mercurial* for two or three weeks; but never so as to affect the mouth, except from cold, or accident.

The second and third injections I never used, but give them with little alteration, on the authority of that justly celebrated physician, PLENCK, of Vienna, to whom mankind and the medical profession are singularly obliged for many learned writings.

INFLAMMATIONS.

It is necessary, in removing most species of inflammation, not only to evacuate the contents of the intestinal canal, but to prevent the daily food from proving nutritious, distending the vessels, and increasing arterial action. Gentle eccoprotics are appropriate to delicate constitutions, and more active antiphlogistic aperients to the robust, and to all, who, in opposition to medical advice, will indulge in their usual excesses, particularly during the cure of the inflammatory stage of the *urethritis venerea*, or any other venereal inflammation. Regular patients, however, may be frequently cured without laxatives. All aloetic and strong bitter purgatives should be avoided, as they occasion hæmorrhoids and inflame the rectum, the contiguity of which part to the perinæum and urethra forbids all stimulating practice.

In forming plans of prescription for venereal complaints, the convenience of the patient, for the purposes of concealment, is more frequently considered than the most accurate modes of treatment. As to laxative remedies, they are no longer necessary than during the first stages of inflammation, or occasionally in costiveness.

APERIENTIA.

NO. 1. ELECTUARIUM.

℞ Cinnab. fact. ʒjss,
Magnesiæ alb. ꝑssæ ʒvj,
Syr. simp. q. s. fiat electuarium, ejus
sumat

Q. N. M. mane, vel mane et meri-
die quotidie.

The motive for prescribing laxa-
tives morning and noon, is to prevent
patients being disturbed in the night.

NO. 2. HAUSTUS.

℞ Kali tartarisati ʒjss. Solve in lac-
tis amygd. ʒij, bis de die sumendus.

NO. 3. MISTURA.

℞ Kali vitriolat.
Mannæ, aa ʒss. Solve in lactis amygd.
ʒss, ejus sumat ʒij bis vel ter de die.

NO. 4. PULVIS.

℞ Pulv. salis polychrest. ʒvj,
... rhei ʒij. M. f. pulvis divi-
dendus in partes xvj, quarum sumat
nam in pauxillo aquæ bis de die.

NO. 5. MISTURA.

℞ Mannæ optimæ ʒjss,
Solve in aquæ puræ ʒvj,
Olei amygdalæ ʒiss,
Mucilag. gummi arab. ʒvj. M. cu-
jus sumat cochlearia tria ter vel quater
de die.

In some constitutions, where *ardor
urinæ* is violent, these almond emul-
sions are excellent, as likewise in that
distressing symptom *chordee*.

It should be remembered, that the
sooner inflammatory symptoms are
removed, so much the shorter will be
the purulent, mucal stages, and cure
of the *urethritis venerea*.

Any of the neutral purgative salts
are likewise proper in plethoric ha-
bits, as

Sal catharticus amarus,

... Glauberi,

... Rupellensis dissolved in *aqua*,
with or without manna, of which, as
also of the former prescriptions, may

be made draughts, or mixtures, &c. according to the will of the prescriber.

NO. 6. MISTURA.

R Kali tartar. ʒvj. Solve in aquæ puræ ʒviij.

Pulv. rhei ʒj. M.

Cujus sumat coch. iij mane et meridie, quotidie.

NO. 7. ELECTUARIUM.

R Elect. fennæ (lenitiv.) ʒijʒ,

Kali tartarificati ʒvj.

M. f. electuarium, cujus sumat Q. N. M. vel amplius mane et meridie, quotidie.

NO. 8. PULVIS.

R Pulv. rhei ʒj,

Salis Glauberi,

Pulv. crem. tart. aa ʒijj.

Fiat pulvis dividendus in partes No. xvj, quarum sumat unam bis de die in coch. iij aquæ puræ.

FOR SOLDIERS, AND ALL ROBUST PERSONS.

NO. 9. PULVIS.

R Pulv. salis nitri ʒʒ,

... jalapii ʒij. M. f. pulvis dividendus in partes viij, quarum sumat unam bis vel ter de die cum coch. iij aquæ.

NO. 10. PILULA.

R Calom. ppr. ʒj,

Pulv. jalapii ʒj,

... rhei ʒʒ. M.

Deinde adde syr. e spinâ cervi aliquot guttas, fiant pilulæ No. 40, quarum capiat No. iij vel iv bis de die.

As one of the gentlest eccoprotics, a tea-spoonful of magnesia may be taken in water twice a day; but if there should not be sufficient acidity in the stomach to assist its operation,

an elegant mode of promoting its laxative effect, is to drink a little lemonade after the magnesia. As a more powerful antiphlogistic cathartic, the following may be sometimes necessary in strong habits. These two last remedies are the extremes of mild and powerful practice.

NO. 11. ELECTUARIUM.

R Pulv. crem. tart. ʒijʒ,

... jalapii ʒʒ.

Syr. simp. q. f. fiat electuarium, de quo capiat quantitatem nucis juglandæ bis de die, vel pro re natâ.

This electuary, with a little ginger added, is very efficacious in evacuating serum, in dropsies; by directing a tea-spoonful to be taken every hour, with a little tincture and infusion of fenna after each dose, *donec alvus copiosè respondeat*. Thus given, it has evacuated many quarts of fluid in the *ascites*, *anasarca*, and even in *hydrophoracis*, or dropsy of the chest. In such cases, some have been effectually cured of the ascites, without, and even after tapping; others greatly relieved, and their lives prolonged, in those desperate and dangerous cases. This electuary is repeated every third or fourth day in those diseases, where there is no contra-indication, and on the intermediate days *pilulæ e scillâ cum pilula hydrargyri* are taken morning and evening; and in the middle of the day, tonics of zincum vitriolatum, or preparations of steel, bitters, and bark are exhibited. See *Treatise on Swelled Legs, Dropsies, and on retarding the Decay of the Constitution, &c.*

COMMON DRINKS IN THE FIRST
STAGES OF URETHRITIS VENE-
REA, WHILST THE ARDOR URINÆ
AND OTHER INFLAMMATORY
SYMPTOMS CONTINUE.

NO. 12.

R̄ Decoct. hordei ℞j,
Salis nitri ʒiʒ. Solve pro potu ordi-
nario.

NO. 13.

R̄ Lactis amygd. ℞j,
Salis nitri ʒiʒ. M. pro potu communi.

NO. 14.

R̄ Rad. althææ incisæ ʒiʒʒ,
... glycyrrhizæ ʒʒ.
Coque in aquæ puræ ℞ijʒ ad ℞ij,
et cola.

This may be drank with or without
nitre. I have known this decoction
alone apparently cure a *gonorrhœa*
virulenta, as it was called, when drank
in large quantities and the patient
observed a strict regimen; but it is
apt to leave great relaxation about the
neck of the bladder, and cause an
incontinence of urine.

To any of the above drinks, in
case of *chordee*, may be added some
tinct. opii, according to constitutions
and circumstances, or the following
forms may be used.

NO. 15.

R̄ Camphoræ ʒj,
Amygd. decort. ʒiij,
Sacchari alb. ʒij.
Contere bene, dein adde gradatim
Aquæ puræ ℞j,
Salis nitri ʒiʒʒ,
Tinct. opii ʒj.
M. sumat coch. iv ter vel quater de
die: or

NO. 16.

R̄ Camphoræ pulv. ʒʒ,
Pulv. opii gr. iv,
Sacchar. alb. gr. vj,

Mucilag. gum. arab. q. s. fiat
pilule xij, quarum sumat ij vel iij omni
nocte, vel sepius in priapismo dolorifico.

Nitre and barley-water, and gum
arabic, or linseed tea, and similar mu-
cilaginous refrigerant drinks, are pro-
per; but all fermented wine and
strong liquors should be as much as
possible avoided.

The most convenient remedies for
allaying inflammation of the urethra
are the following mucilaginous, de-
mulcent, and antiphlogistic powders.

NO. 17.

R̄ Pulv. tragac. comp. ʒiij,
... salis nitri ʒʒ. M. f. pulvis
dividendus in xxiij partes, quarum
sumat j quater de die vel sæpius in
cochlearibus iij aquæ puræ.

NO. 18.

R̄ Pulv. gummi arab. ʒij,
... rad. liquorit. ʒiijʒʒ,
... salis nitri ʒiʒʒ.
M. f. pulvis dividendus in xxiv
partes, quarum sumat unam sæpè in
coch. iij aquæ puræ.

Infusions of linseed, quincefeed,
leaves of marshmallows, decoctions
of liquorice and marshmallow roots
with poppy heads, or orgeat, from the
confectioner's, are all useful drinks
during the inflammatory and puru-
lent stages of *urethritis venerea*, with
or without nitre: in short, so long as
the heat or pain of urine remain, these
remedies should be continued. Cam-
phor is known to be excellent in
strangury from blisters, and it is
equally efficacious in *ardor urinæ*, and
particularly in *chordee*. It may easily
be formed into pills, with blanched
almonds, &c. for convenience, and,
if necessary, pulv. opii may be added.

NO.

NO. 19.

℞ Camphoræ ʒj,

Amygd. decort. ʒj,

Sacchar alb. ʒʒ. Contere benè, fiant
pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum sumat iij vel
iv ter quaterve de die.

NO. 20.

℞ Camphoræ,

Amygd. decort. āā ʒj,

Pulv. opii gr. v. Contere benè, fiant
pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum sumat iij vel
iv omni nocte.

These remedies are proper during
the inflammatory stage of the *urethritis*

venerea. Delicate stomachs, how-
ever, cannot bear nitre, as I have
observed in the *Treatise on the Cure of*
ulcerated Legs without Rest, vol. iv. of
the *Rational Practice of Physic*. In
which case, the pulv. tragacanth.
comp. alone, or equal parts of pulv.
gum. arab. and pulv. rad. glycyrrhizæ,
form a very pleasant powder, two tea-
spoonfuls of which may be taken in a
little water, very often, in the course
of the day, whilst the heat of urine
may remain.

While the *urethritis venerea* is thus treated, in a mild manner, with anti-
phlogistic aperients and mucilaginous sheathers against urethral inflammation
and urinal acrimony; it should be remembered, that the cause of the evil con-
sists in *venereal virus*, which cannot, with certainty, be removed without *mer-*
cury; therefore, after the first few evacuations, that mineral should be admi-
nistered in the mildest forms, not as an evacuant, but as an alterative. - This
plan consists in giving the preparations in small doses, and at proper distances,
so as never, unless by accident, to prove purgative or salivant. As these
methods are not well known, and mercurials are commonly prescribed in
too large doses, which may be seen in practice and in most prescription-
books, and the intention of repelling the virus is often defeated, it will
be necessary to deliver a short explanation of the alterative plan of cure,
which, in thousands of instances, has been successfully adopted.

I. There is a marked and positive distinction between the *venereal inflam-*
mation of the urethra and the inflammation of other parts, arising from differ-
ent and other various causes; hence the necessity of dissimilar treatment.

II. The most subtle poisonous particles of venereal contagion may not,
in all cases, be absorbed and conveyed into the constitution from recent
urethral affection; chancres ill treated by caustics, desiccatives, &c.: yet it is
impossible for the most sagacious and experienced physician to be quite
certain, when it may or may not have happened; it must be safest, therefore, to
guard against future ill consequences, by a judicious and mild administration
of the cause-removing specific, mercury. It is a disgrace to the art, not to
perfectly cure the primary affection, when in the genitals, so that no future
venereal symptoms may appear, unless in very extraordinary cases.

III. It is reasonable to suppose, and innumerable facts prove, that not
only the venereal virus, but infectious, and particularly putrid diseases, are

best opposed and most easily cured, when attacked at the most early period, by well-adapted and adequate remedies. A slight local affection is with greater facility cured than a disease of great magnitude: a clap, and primary symptoms, much more easily than a confirmed universal pox *. By giving mercurials early, absorption of the venereal virus is prevented; by neglecting this safe and secure mode of treatment, the foundation of a future *lues venerea* is promoted.

IV. It must appear evident that the venereal virus, when received and conveyed into the constitution, does not always show its effects in a few days, like acute, infectious, putrid-tending fevers, or small-pox, &c.; but is often slow in its progress, and very frequently not suspected to be in the habit, until dreadful symptoms show that the solids and fluids are, in certain degrees, contaminated with the penetrating *miasma*, or venereal poison.

V. Immediately after the virus may have been absorbed and carried through the thoracic duct, left or right subclavian vein, into the blood, the minute venereal particles must be very few in comparison to those, which, after long circulation and diffusion in the habit, produce such direful effects.

VI. When there be but few particles in the constitution, which must be the case whilst the disease be recent, those few particles must, as millions of indubitable facts prove, certainly be more speedily extinguished by mercury, at that early period, and by lighter means, than when the particles, producing the effect of universal lues, have been multiplied by daily, monthly, or annual accumulation, until the greater part of the body seems a series of venereal taint. The powerful methods of cure, often required under such circumstances, incontrovertibly prove this fact.

VII. When the venereal poisonous particles may be absorbed, the remedies should be applied so as not to purge; but to penetrate the inmost and most minute recesses of the habit, to exterminate not only the present seeds of the disease; but likewise the minutest parts of the human body should be so well saturated with the effects of mercury, that the baneful and destructive causes may be perfectly extinguished.

* With regard to the utility of attacking putrid-tending diseases spiritedly in their commencement, the successful practice I have so long adopted at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, and in private, has fully confirmed it. In malignant putrid infectious fevers, malignant putrid sore throat, scarlet fever, with angina putrida of children, in the confluent small-pox, it has ever been my practice to immediately apply the tinctura rosarum, as drink, and to give in the first stages of the disease the most powerful antiseptics, by which I have most assuredly saved thousands of lives, who would have fallen victims to those diseases by the common treatment of giving antiseptics when too late to be useful. See treatises on those subjects in the Rational Practice of Physic, &c.

VIII. As the accumulation of venereal particles, when absorbed, often seems slow in its progress, though perhaps daily acquiring additional force; so should remedies be applied, that act on the habit and effectually counteract *venereal poison* by *slow degrees*, with or without *opium*, according as the stomach and intestines are irritable, or non-irritable. Violent practices often have failed, and will fail, in eradicating the virus. From hence the principle of administering mercury in a mild manner, either by the mouth or frictions, or by both, that shall be efficacious; yet not excite those violent commotions of the body, that former severe salivations and other rough methods produced, and rendered the remedy, at times, worse than the disease.

IX. In this successful mode of treatment, there are no vain pretensions of ascertaining what are the component principles or particles of venereal virus; nor how mercury so wonderfully exterminates the disease: there is no unintelligible jargon of morbid disposition and action, action and disposition, &c. These, and a number more curious but useless and dangerous speculations, are left for those who continually puzzle themselves and others with what they may never comprehend, who, often when they have pursued the shadow of science, vainly think that they have obtained the substance. It is the business of practical physicians and surgeons to act and cure diseases, not to lose the precious moments of life in useless pursuits, nor in vain attempts to acquire what may for ever remain incomprehensible *. It should be remembered

* If physicians were to halt until the *modus operandi* of either diseases or remedies were perfectly understood, except those which are irrefutably evident, their patients would languish in misery, or die for want of assistance. Some of the medical dealers in fables, in all ages, have pretended to account for every phenomenon in nature. Their eternal wranglings, contradictions, and refutations, best determine the truth of their jarring tenets, and may be seen in the historical part of *Schola Medicinæ*. The medical inventors and supporters of fictions, in every age, like the mad enthusiasts and violent sectaries in religion, philosophy, and politics, always modestly presume that they are alone right, and all the rest of the world in error. Wretched unfortunates! not to be enlightened by the penetrating rays of superstition, hypothesis, and hypocrisy, which, like meteors, frequently blaze for a time, then vanish like smoke, and hide their short-lived dazzling heads in those dark clouds from whence they issued. It is a happiness for society, that the most sensible and experienced seniors of the faculty play no part in the ridiculous comedies of chimera; they closely adhere to that sound practice, which success has long established; and which they daily, with humanity and sobriety of thinking, endeavour to improve; they see with concern the slaughters that are ever the consequences of rash inexperience, medical, temporary, fanciful excursions, and daring attempts to revolutionize that art, which these self-sufficient artists have not given themselves time to comprehend.

It would be useful for all professional visionists attentively to read *Locke* on

remembered by the sensible, that bold assertions and mere opinions are no proofs, unless uniformly supported by facts of superior cures, in practice: the former pretensions may create the admiration of the weak-minded and credulous, the latter command the approbation of the learned.

X. The supposition that a confirmed *lues venerea* requires any particular quantity of mercury, applied to all subjects, in exactly the same ratio, to exterminate infection, is very erroneous. A small portion effects a cure in some, whilst an immense quantity will scarcely operate on others. The rule in practice should be, whether by light salivation, or any other mode of cure, to continue the remedies a considerable time after the symptoms have entirely disappeared; as the only means of preventing their reproduction.

XI. No one method of cure nor remedy can be adapted to the cure of the *venereal virus* in all cases, as quacks and impostors pretend with their pills, drops, syrups, &c.; for most constitutions require different treatment, according to circumstances, ages, and sexes, which it is the duty and office of discriminating skilful medicine to discover, that adequate remedies may be applied to all the singular cases that occur; or failure of success must be frequently the consequence.

XII. Those who assert that *argentum vivum purificatum*, *æthiops mineralis*, *cinnabar factitium*, are insignificant remedies, and entirely inactive, have certainly never reflected that saliva, the fluids in the stomach, the acid ferment in the first process of digestion, the pancreatic juice passing into the duodenum, similar to saliva, the bile, &c. may, in some measure, attract the simple particles of mercury, and other mercurial preparations *, by which
means,

the Extent of Human Understanding: that great man and profound reasoner says,

“ If by this inquiry into the nature of the understanding, I can discover the powers thereof; how far they reach, to what things they are in any degree proportionate, and where they fail us; I suppose it may be of use to prevail with the busy mind of man, to be more cautious in meddling with things *exceeding its comprehension*; to stop, when it is at the utmost extent of its tether; and to sit down in a quiet *ignorance* of those things, which, upon examination, are found to be beyond the reach of our capacities. We should not then perhaps be so forward, out of *affetation* of an *universal knowledge*, to raise *questions*, and *perplex* ourselves and others with *disputes* about things, to which our understandings are not suited, and of which we cannot frame in our minds *any clear* or distinct perceptions, or whereof (as it has perhaps too often happened) *we have not any notions* at all. If we can find out how far the understanding can extend its view; how far it has faculties to attain certainty; and in what cases it can only judge and guess, we may learn to content ourselves with what is attainable by us in this state.”

* Those, who will be at the trouble of examining the writings of the first admini-

means, in some instances, from mercurial particles being conveyed into the habit, those insignificant remedies, as they have been called, have been known to salivate, from the practical observations of the author and others. They are the *lightest* species of mercurial alteratives, and are not to be *dependd* on in venereal affections, except occasionally as mild auxiliaries, when more powerful remedies cannot be judiciously prescribed, and when mercurials are obliged to be suspended. I have perfectly cured several ulcers of the *rectum*, not venereal, which had resisted all other methods, under the direction of the most skilful practitioners, by a long continuance of the *pulvis alterans purificans*, or by cinuabar and powdered purified nitre, joined with pulv. e tragacanth. comp. and similar compositions.

XIII. The main objects of cure, then, are the prevention of the *virus* attaching itself to the constitution, by meeting the contaminating particles in the early stages of venereal infection, and by attempting its utter extinction, if confirmed, without injuring the mouth, teeth and gums, stomach, or intestines, &c. by smaller doses, and by a longer continuance of the generous mineral, mercury, combined or uncombined with antimonials.

XIV. The virus is supposed to be conveyed by the same vessels as the antidote mercury; namely, by the absorbent lymphatics, into the constitution. When there may be cause for apprehending the absorption of venereal poison in any part, as from *gonorrhœa virulenta*, or *urethritis venerea*, from chancres, treated with caustics or preparations of *aqua calcis*, &c. from any scratch or abrasion of the skin coming into contact with the venereal poison, it is a rational practice, if possible, to use mercurial frictions, baths, peniluvia, &c.

administrators of mercury, will find they always extinguished mercury with *salva*, when they formed their first rude unguents of that mineral for the venereal disease, compounded commonly with litharge, sulphur vivum, &c.

Foresius, who died old in 1597, says, De Lue Venerea, 113 ob. lib. xxxii. that the cure by ointments prepared from *argentum vivum*, or quicksilver, was first attempted by quacks, who having seen scabby eruptions, achor, and such diseases cured by mercury, were not afraid of applying it by the best reasoning and with the most happy success to the lues venerea, &c.—Curatio autem per unguenta ex argento vivo ab *empiricis* primum tentata fuit, qui cum scabiæ, et illi generi tumoris quod *αχὼς* dicitur et aliis hujusmodi conferre vidissent, eoque scabiæ capitis et totius cutis curari; huic morbo idem accommodare non veriti sunt, eoque deinceps ratione optima, utque adeo felicissimo successu usi sunt, &c.—Case 117. De rustico quodam Nauta, et robusto, curato per Suffitum ex Cinnabari, a Lue venerea. The disease, it seems, at that early period, was cured by cinnabarine fumigations, and empirics were the first who used mercury. A tonsor cured the disease, according to the same author, by pilule mercuriales. The Arabians likewise used mercurial ointments, as may be seen in Mesue and others, in leprosy, &c. long before the venereal disease made its appearance in Europe.

promptly,

promptly, so that the mercury shall attack that series of vessels that may be supposed to be first affected, and that are in the act of conveying the invisible poisonous particles to the constitution *.

XV. Such are the principles on which the alterative mode of exhibiting mercury has been founded; and however they may appear in theory, they have been universally beneficial in practice, if thousands of cases, perfectly and permanently cured, may be admitted as proofs.

MERCURIALIA.

MERCURIAL pills should be formed with those substances that are gradually soluble in the stomach, and which do not decompose or change their antivenereal properties; therefore *saccharum album* and *mucilago gummi arabici* have been prescribed as proper for calomel; and if those were not readily procurable, *confectio opiata*, or *damocratis*, have been preferred to *conserva cynobati*, vel *rosarum*; but not from the least expectation of the

* Every anatomist knows there are different series of lymphatics, some superficial, others deep-seated: their direction may be seen in one of the plates to my *Schola Medicina*, with all the lymphatic and absorbent vessels and glands of the whole human body at one view. The minute origin of these vessels, so far as injections and reasoning prove, proceed from all extremities and internal surfaces, towards the thoracic duct; and what they convey enters the subclavian vein, &c. The lacteal system terminates in the same manner. The venereal poisonous particles are absorbed if by a scratch or sore, for example, on the finger, by which midwives attending venereal patients have so frequently received the disease, by the superficial lymphatics proceeding and contaminating the blood, by first passing through the thoracic duct. It has been seen, both by myself and others; the marks of the virus proceeding from absorption, by the finger up the inside of the arm, in the direction of the superficial lymphatics, the brachial and axillary lymphatic glands have shown evident signs of inflammation, tumor, &c. Persons should be cautious how they even touch with the finger the vagina of an infected woman. Now, in such instances, the mercurial ointment, or mercurial bath, should be immediately applied to the finger, hand, &c. so that the mercury should be absorbed by the same vessels that conveyed the poison, if possible, before the lymphatics be inflamed; the penis likewise may be soaked frequently in a mercurial *peniluvium*, on the same principle, when *urethritis venerea* or chancres are present, not omitting, at the same time, the more powerful methods of exterminating the poisonous particles by mercury, which may have made their way into the sanguiferous system; by conveying mercury by the absorbents of the stomach and intestines, called lacteals, which may probably counteract the poison at its first entrance into the blood, and before it becomes diffused in the constitution.

opiate confections acting as narcotics, in the small quantity used for forming pills, as some have imagined, who have seen those prescriptions in my Rational Practice of Physic, in that part wherein alteratives are recommended in the cure of ulcerated legs without rest, cancerous, or chronic, or nervous cases. I have rather objected to the addition of opium with mercurials, unless the case particularly required its administration, as in irritable intestines, chordee, &c. A decided simple practice, directed to eradicate the disorder, is always to be preferred to complexity in composition. There are some reasons, which I may hereafter explain, for supposing that opium retards, or in some measure diminishes the active mercurial powers in curing many venereal complaints. Camphor united to mercury increases its power as an alterative, acts as a light diaphoretic, and very often specifically on the urinary passages in abating inflammation and irritation, particularly in violent *ardor urinæ* and in the *chordee*, with, or frequently without opium. *Camphor*, *calomel*, and *antimony*, are likewise extremely efficacious in all membranous inflammation, especially if joined with nitre dissolved, as in the pleurisy, peripneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs; tela cellulosa of muscles, or acute rheumatism, hepatitis peritonitis, the inflammation of the lungs superadded to an asthma in cold winters, &c. &c. *

NO.

* I have never attempted the cure of these complaints from the time of the capture of Belleisle, 1761, where numerous cases of this nature happened, in the autumnal season, without those excellent and efficacious remedies in conjunction with bleedings, vesicatories, occasional antiphlogistic aperients and warm bathings, &c. This is a decided manly practice, which numbers of the faculty, for years, in this metropolis, have seen attended with the utmost degree of success. In pleuritic and peripneumonic cases, it prevents suppurations and ulcerated lungs, pulmonary consumption, &c. It is quite opposite to that feeble mode of treatment, which the *sectatores naturæ*, or of those who, with solemn faces and plausible tongues, have sung forth, and continue to sing forth, in exulting or canting tones, the praises of their invisible imaginary agent, *vis medicatrix naturæ*, which is oftener *vis necatrix naturæ*. What fatality attends diseases, when left to the powers of nature, may be seen in the Treatise on putrid, ulcerated, and infectious Sore-throat: where the medical exemplifications of receiving undefinable expressions for things or facts must strike every human mind with conviction and horror! The notion, that mercurial preparations are only applicable to venereal complaints, and that diseases cured by mercury are all venereal, are amongst the grossest errors and fallacia of the profession. I have cured thousands of ulcerated legs, *without rest*, by CALOMEL, in small doses every other night, with nitre, camphor, bark, &c. in persons who never had venereal complaints. See treatise on this subject, with the *rationale*, in volume iv.

of

NO. 21. PILULÆ PURGANTES ORDINARIÆ PLENCKII.

R Massæ pilularum Ruffi ʒʒ,
Rezin. jalap.

Aquilæ albæ, aa gr. iv. M. f. pilulæ gr. iij f. assumantur pro una dosi. Plenck says, His pilulis omni decimo die alvum moveo illis, qui mercurio utuntur; hæ pilulæ septies vel sæpius alvum facile et certo movent, mille- nis ægrotis præscriptæ hypercathar- sin non causerunt.

NO. 22. SYRUPUS HYDRARGYRI.

R Mercurii vivi depuratissimi ʒj,
Gummi arabici pulverisati ʒiij,

Syr. simp. q. f. M. Conterantur in mortario vitreo donec mercurius abiit in mucum; adde insuper conterendo syrupi simp. ʒjʒ. M. Mane ac vesperi detur infantibus cochleare parvum ligneum, dosi sensim au- geatur.

This is proper for the venereal affections of pregnant women, in- fants, or persons of delicate habits.

NO. 23. SOLUTIO HYDRARGYRI.

R Mercurii viv. depuratissimi ʒj,
Gum. arabici pulverisati ʒiij,

Syr. simp. q. f. Conterantur in mortario vitreo, sensim affundendo aliquantum syrupi, donec mercurius omnis abiit in mucum. His satis subactis adduntur sensim conterendo Aquæ rosæ ʒxij.

NO. 24. SOLUTIO HYDRARGYRI CAMPHORATA.

R Argenti vivi ʒj,
Gum. arabic. pulverisat. ʒiij,
Sacchari albi ʒij. Contere benè,

affundendo sensim pauxillum aquæ puræ, donec mercurius omnis abiit in mucum perfecte mistum; deinde adde gradatim

Misturæ camphoratæ ʒviij, cujus sumat coch. j bis vel ter de die, prius agitata phiala. To this may be added one grain of tartar. emetic.

NO. 25. PILULA HYDRARGYRI GUMMOSA PLENCKII.

R Hydrargyri purificati ʒj,
Gum. arab. pulveris. ʒiij,

Syrup. simp. q. f. Conterantur benè in mortario marmoreo vel vitreo donec hydrargyrus in mucum abiit; huic adde micæ panis albißimi ʒʒ; subigantur bene in massam pilularem, f. pilulæ gr. iij mane et vesperi assumuntur x.

NO. 26. PILULA HYDRARGYRI.

R Pil. hydrarg. Pharmac. Lond. ʒij, f. pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum su- mat j vel ij mane et nocte.

NO. 27. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CAMPHORATA.

R Pil. hydrarg. ʒjʒ,

Camphor. in pulv. redactæ ope spiritus vini rectificati ʒijʒ. Con- tunde benè, f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum sumat ij vel iij mane ac nocte.

NO. 28. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CUM OPIO.

R Pil. hydrarg. ʒjʒ,

Extract. opii ʒʒ. M. accurate, f. pilulæ No. xxxx, quarum capiat ij vel iij omne nocte.

NO. 29. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CUM CRETA.

R Hydrargyri cum creta ʒij,

of the Rational Practice of Physic, and in the treatises on putrid fevers, dropsies, &c. &c. &c. where mercurials are recommended from long ex- perience, and numerous facts in various chronic and acute disorders.

Confess

Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. xxx, quarum sumat j mane et nocte.

NO. 30. PILULA HYDRARGYRI
ACETATI.

R Hydrargyri acetati ʒijß,
Sacchar. alb. ʒß,
Mucilag. gummi tragacanth. q. f.
f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum capiat j vel
ij mane ac nocte.

These are similar to the famous
Keyser's pills, which Dr. Cooper
formerly vended in London.

NO. 31. PILULA AQUILÆ ALBÆ.

R Aquilæ albæ (Merc. dulc. de-
cies sublimat. et benè præparat.) ʒij,
Sacchar. alb. ʒj M.

Mucilag. gummi arab. q. f. f. pi-
lulæ No. ccxl, quarum sumat j vel
ij omni nocte.

NO. 32. PILULA CALOMELANOS.

R Calomel. ppt. ʒij,
Sacchar. alb. ʒj. M. deinde adde
mucilag. gum. arabici q. f. f. pilulæ
No. ccxl, quarum sumat j vel ij omni
nocte.

In strong habits, three or four of
the above pills may be taken every
night. A larger dose would act too
powerfully on the stomach and in-
testines, unless restrained by opium.

NO. 33. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CAMPHORATA.

R Calomel. ppt. ʒj,
Camphor. in pulverem redactæ
ope spiritus vini rectificati ʒij,
Mucilag. gum. arab. q. f. f. pilulæ
No. cxx, quarum sumat ij vel iij
omni nocte, vel nocte ac mane.

NO. 34. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CUM OPIO.

R Calomel. ppt. ʒj,

Pulv. opii gr. xx,

Sacchar. alb. ʒß. M. deinde adde
mucilag. gum. arabici q. f. f. pilulæ
No. cxx, quarum capiat j vel ij omni
nocte.

NO. 35. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CAMPHORATA CUM OPIO.

R Pil. calomelan. camphorat. ʒijß,
Extract. opii ʒj. M. accurate, f.
pilulæ No. lx, quarum sumat j vel ij
omni nocte, vel mane ac nocte.

NO. 36. PILULA CALOMELANOS
CUM ANTIMONIO.

R Sacchar. alb. ʒß,
Calomel. ppt. ʒj,
Pulveris Jacobi vel antimonialis
ʒiij. M. accurate; deinde adde mu-
cilag. gum. arab. q. f. f. pilulæ No.
cxx, quarum sumat j vel ij octava
quaque hora.

These are proper in acute rheu-
matism, pleurisy, peripneumony, or
in any membranous inflammation,
with saline antiphlogistics, cam-
phor, &c.

NO. 37. PILULA CALOMELANOS
OPIATA CUM ANTIMONIO.

R Calomel. ppt. ʒj,
Pulv. Jacobi vel antimonialis ʒiij,
. . . opii ʒß,
Sacchar. alb. ʒj. M. accuratissime,
deinde adde mucilag. gum. arab. q.
f. f. pilulæ No. clx, quarum sumat j
vel ij sexta vel octava quaque hora,
vel omni nocte.

These are proper in chronic rheu-
matism, without difficulty of breath-
ing, &c. and in some complicated
venereal cases.

NO. 38. PULVIS CUM CALOMELANO
ET ANTIMONIO TARTARISATO.

R Calomel. ppt. gr. iv,

Antimon.

Antimon. tartarifat. gr. viij,

Sacchar. alb. ʒʒ. M. accurate f. pulvis, dividendus in xxiv partes, quarum sumat j vel ij sexta vel octava quaque hora, superbibendo haustum sequentem :

Rx Amygdal. decort. No. ij,

Camphor. gr. viij,

Sacch. alb. ʒʒ. Contere benè; deinde adde gradatim

Aq. pur. ʒij,

Salis nitr. ʒj vel ʒʒ; f. haustus.

These two last prescriptions are very powerful, and proper in dangerous pleurifies, peripneumony, paraphrenitis, and such like cases, that require prompt and efficacious assistance, lest they prove fatal. Salutory perspiration is speedily promoted, by determining the fluids copiously through the skin, and internal surface of the bronchial canals, &c.; a cause-removing expectoration is soon obtained, and inflammation diminished; by which the vital organs are liberated from the impending danger of those complaints, in conjunction with previous and repeated bleedings (according to state of blood and violence of symptoms): laxatives, blisters, warm bathings, &c. are likewise not to be omitted. It is an additional force, on well-known practice. It is likewise a prompt mode, with venæ-section, of removing the most violent inflammations of the testicles, by resolution, joined with previous aperients and nitrous fomentations, lying in bed, &c.

In violent and acute rheumatisms of robust persons, to soldiers and

sailors in the vigour and prime of life, these modes of treatment are appropriate. The energy of medicine should always be proportioned to the danger of cases and force of disease. Plugged up as the bronchial vessels are, in some of those cases threatening suffocation, from the great load of inspissated mucus constantly accumulating, from the effects of very cold air in the depth of winter, with dyspnœa and frequently orthopnœa, from impeded circulation in the lungs, &c. destruction, inevitable destruction, stares medicine in the face; nor will it be averted by the slow movements of *vis medicatrix naturæ*. It is the time to act, as in putrid diseases, not to wait on the feeble efforts of dame Nature to cure the disease. Whoever expects miracles will be punished with death for his credulity; but spirited practice should always be tempered with caution.

NO. 39. PILULA HYDRARGYRI CALCINATI.

Rx Hydrargyri calcinati (Merc. calcinat. benè præparati) ʒj,

Sacchar. alb. ʒʒ. M.

Confect. opiat. q. s. f. pilulæ No. cxx, quarum capiat ij vel iij mane et nocte.

Instead of Saccharum, to divide the powerful and active mercurial particles, Pulvis opii may be used, which prevents the remedy acting on the canal of the intestines. This was a favourite remedy of the late Dr. *Hugh Smith*, of Blackfriars, and it is certainly efficacious in primary,

mary, but not to be depended on in secondary affections without frictions.

NO. 40. PILULA HYDRARGYRI
VITRIOLATI.

Rx Hydrargyri vitriolat. (Turbit. min.) ʒʒ,

Pulv. opii ʒʒ,

Sacchar. alb. gr. xv. M. accuratissime, deinde adde Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum sumat j mane et nocte, vel ter de die.

This is a very powerful remedy, and used by many as a great secret, in venereal cases. It is apt to nauseate the stomach; but in robust habits, robust remedies are sometimes expedient.

NO. 41. PILULA HYDRARGYRI
CALCINATI CAMPHORATA.

Rx Hydrarg. calcinat. ʒʒ,

Pulv. camphor. ʒij,

. . . opii ʒʒ. Contere bene, de-

inde adde Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. cxx, quarum sumat ij, iij, vel iv mane et nocte.

This is likewise a powerful antivenereal, and proper in dry skins, &c.

NO. 42. PILULA HYDRARGYRI
VITRIOLATI CAMPHORATA.

Rx Hydrargyri vitriolat. ʒʒ,

Pulv. camphor. ʒij,

. . . opii ʒʒ. Contere bene, deinde adde Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. cxx, quarum sumat j vel ij ter de die.

Camphor admirably corrects the more violent properties of mercury in these latter formed pills, which are very efficacious in all primary affections. By thus dispersing, likewise, the very active particles of mercury, the mercurial effects are slower and more certain, even in chronic cases.

ALTERANTIA MINERALIA.

MINERAL alteratives, strictly speaking, are generally combinations of sulphureous preparations with mercury, which act on the human constitution without exciting any very sensible evacuation, and yet remove many diseases incurable by any other methods.

Though mercurials given in the small and mild doses I have ever recommended, may be considered alteratives; yet they are more likely, from cold or accident, to excite purging, ptyalism, &c. than those which are introduced in the following *formula*, which ought never to excite vomiting, purging, salivation, or even profuse sweating. Their utmost limits of action should be to penetrate the minutest systems, and never apparently to stimulate more than by increasing insensible perspiration.

Though the present *formula* is calculated for the *lues venerea* as a powerful and safe auxiliary, generally in conjunction with mercurial frictions; yet the prescriptions have been known to eradicate many

symptoms of that disorder alone. When it has been necessary to suspend the use of mercury, either because it acted too powerfully on the salivary glands, or on the constitution in general of delicate patients, alteratives become excellent substitutes.

The mineral alteratives are very useful, likewise, if *well prepared* and *long continued*, in most *chronic diseases*; they are what I have always prescribed as powerful agents, acting by imperceptible degrees, in gout, chronic rheumatisms between the paroxysms, scirrhoties of the liver, spleen, lymphatic glands, scrophula or king's evil, indurations, callosities, or in inspissated or coagulated fluids of any parts, scirrhus breasts, whether arising from lying-in, or from occult cancerous induration, in ulcers of the legs, or womb, whether cancerous or arising from venereal causes; in all chronic eruptions difficult of cure; in locked jaw, palsies, in various species of blindness, as gutta serena, cataract, and opacities of the cornea, &c. joined with camphor, nitre, and other remedies; in dropsies, and, in short, in all obscure, deep-seated, chronic diseases, which resist the accustomed remedies. Obstinate diseases are thus sometimes cured *.

The chief use intended at present of these compositions, is in cases of *complicated lues venerea*; whether it be with scrophula, scurvy, cancerous affections, or leprosy, &c. The mineral alteratives are likewise excellent as powerful auxiliaries in all venereal eruptions; but it must be observed, though they apparently remove many symptoms, yet they should not be entirely depended on in venereal affections, without the junction of mild frictions. How they operate, would require a longer treatise to explain than the present; but those who are best acquainted with the minute functions of the exhalent, inhalent, and lymphatic

* See my Treatises on the Gout, nervous and biliary Diseases from hardened or scirrhus Liver, Jaundice, scirrhus and cancerous Breasts and Womb, old Ulcers of the Legs and other Parts. See Tetanus, and six cases cured of the *locked jaw*, five of which came into the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, and were perfectly cured by the alterative pills, camphor, &c. likewise in Observations on the putrid, yellow, and other Fevers of hot Climates, in the Medical Advice to the Army and Navy, which was presented to his present Majesty, at the levée, 1776; wherein scirrhus livers of hot climates are considered. In the Treatise, volume the third, of the Rational Practice of Physic, are one hundred and eighteen diseases and operations of the eyes considered, and some successfully treated, in many cases, by mineral alteratives, &c. Many palsies have been cured at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary by the same means, &c. See the Treatise on swelled Legs, Dropsies, retarding the Decay of the Constitution, and on the Necessity of encouraging the Study of Anatomy; addressed and sent to every noble member of Lords and Commons, &c. &c.

systems, and all the experiments of *Abraham Kærw*, and others, *de perspirabili externa et interna*, will easily perceive how they act on the human body. If they likewise read with attention what is advanced in *Schola Medicinæ*, volume the second, on this and similar subjects, and well consider that the *tela cellulosa* forms almost every part of the body, and that the cells, large or most minute, universally communicate, which has been irrefutably proved by *Haller* and others, with the external and internal continual insensible perspiration, and irroration of vapours, fluids, and the sensible action of odorous sulphurs, garlic, onion, camphor, turpentine, &c. through the minutest oscula of exhalent arteries, &c. their inquiries may be rewarded with a gratifying satisfaction; but this is the time to act practically, not to speculate *.

The mineral alterative plan of treating many chronic diseases, it appears, is little understood, even by the most learned, in other respects, of the profession. Though the remedies have been successfully prescribed above thirty years, and the prescriptions published in various parts of the *Rational Practice of Physic*, for that period, in the most open manner; in short, all that has been known or observed, has been already sincerely, and without the least disguise, communicated; yet it has happened that the remedies have not been so universally applied as it was hoped, and their great efficacy merited. Mankind, therefore, have not received the important benefits intended. Pride and envy, ignorance and illiberality, have too often interposed their pernicious officiousness to the injury of society, and have frequently prevented the salutary use of alteratives in the most important cases of disease. This fact, and the parties who formed illiberal cabals against what they would not comprehend, are well known to the profession; but the trifling opinions of little minds and less science were always disregarded by the author. Engaged as he has been, and it is well known, through life, in a continual and industrious endeavour to improve the healing art, a love of peace and harmony, and the diligent attendance of extensive practice, did not afford time to listen to the detracting underhand whispers of calumny, nor to the more daring violations of honour and integrity, concerted, without reason or any regard to truth, by the activity of malevolence, inveteracy of malice, or gross errors and perverseness of ignorance †.

* In the intended third volume of *Schola Medicinæ*, containing the rationale and practice of all the branches of medicine, founded on the truths advanced in the two volumes already published, I may more elaborately explain the operation of alteratives from the numerous facts in my possession.

† It has been insinuated, that though extraordinary cures were sometimes performed (for facts cannot be denied), yet it could not have been by the methods the author published; for other practitioners used the same remedies,

dies, and failed. In answer to the illiberal assertion, that the author used any other methods than those communicated, it is in the most solemn manner denied. The remedies prescribed having been prepared by many eminent apothecaries in this metropolis, who attended conjointly the patients, and who were witnesses to the success, sometimes in scirrhus breast, ulcerated womb, venereal cases, &c. &c. they are ready and willing to refute that untruth, so injurious to society and the feelings of humanity. In the *formula medicamentorum* in public use at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, where the author has been physician many years, all the alterative remedies have been introduced from the time he entered on that important office, and success, as is well known in many instances, proved the rectitude and veracity of the doctrines advanced. In answer to the same remedies having been used without success; practitioners might have been often disappointed from want of accuracy in the preparations, or owing to adulterations; or from not rubbing the compositions the length of time prescribed, they must have been frequently administered without success, particularly in cancerous cases. Nothing but an ignorance of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, could suppose any means devised by man capable of curing certain stages of cancer. If the authors of underhand detraction will look into the Treatise on cancerous Diseases, and the Letters, published in 1773, on medical Vanity, and against Hemlock, in volume the first of the Rational Practice of Physic, they will find that work rather calculated to show the *impossibility* of curing cancerous cases from anatomical reasoning, except in the first stages; though sometimes it has happened, that very desperate cases have been cured, and in many instances the ravaging and frightful disease has been greatly relieved and retarded in its progress. That treatise was written as an improvement in the treatment of breast and womb cases, &c. to prevent the dangerous imposture of pretenders to the cure of cancers; which, while it often destroys the afflicted, is a disgrace to the profession to suffer. One of the concluding paragraphs of the work is as follows; after industriously investigating and enumerating all that has been done in cancers for above *two thousand years*, it is said, “The learned reader will perceive, that the modes of treatment I have adopted and communicated are *new*; and, if they snatch, now and then, an unfortunate victim from death, or even palliate the symptoms of the incurable, it will not only requite the author for his unremitting researches, but perhaps point out new paths to other abler practitioners, and promote a spirit of emulation for accomplishing future improvements.”

This is a proof positive, that instead of pretending to cure cancer, as some, regardless of truth, have asserted, the reverse is announced, and reasons for the causes of difficulty and impossibility of cure, under certain circumstances, are fully explained. No part of the work holds out *false hopes* to the afflicted, or *irrational expectations* of cure to the professional inexperienced. The whole writing is calculated to decry all violent, and recommend mild practices; to caution mankind against the deluding boastings and fallacious promises of daring and ignorant empiricism; and to inculcate the necessity of the patients' submission in bearing temporary inconvenience,
rather

rather than fly inconsiderately, and believe in the glaring impossibilities, which generally excite additional excruciating pain, permanent misery, and finally terminate in certain and inevitable destruction. Every sentence in the book has been the result of accurate observation and long experience, and tends to show in the clearest manner, that no *opprobrium* is attached to the art of medicine, or practitioners, for not being able to cure several species of cancer, &c. which knaves and deceivers pretend to, and honourable men avoid promising. Similar sentiments and reasonings will be found in the Treatise on Gout and many other diseases. The first thing a physician has to do, is to comprehend clearly what is practically probable or possible, and the best mode of applying medicine; and, secondly, to as well understand what is impracticable or impossible, and the *rationale* of both. Such acquisitions are the ultimate result of long study and experience, guided by sound sense and integrity; and distinguish true learning and science from hypothesis, unreasonable expectation, and ignorance.

Another palpable error, which many practitioners have fallen into, is a supposition that mercurials and antimonial sulphurs, combined even by long trituration (for on this their efficacy greatly depends), were not dissimilar to mercury alone. When they have seen from a quarter of a grain to a grain of calomel, &c. united with an equal quantity of *truly prepared kermes mineral*, or *sulphur auratum antimonii* (now called sulphur antimonii præcipitatum), they have expressed their surprise and fears, when it has been proposed to give such doses three or four times a day, with the *pulvis alterans purificans*, in doses from twenty to thirty grains, with camphor mixtures, or solutions, in cancerous, scrophulous, or complicated venereal cases. This apprehension must have entirely arisen, either from not knowing the nature of these compositions, or from not having seen them administered. When these substances are truly prepared, and the articles obtained from Apothecaries' Hall (and none other should be depended on), their action in the human body is quite different to mercury in any form alone; and abundance of experience proves, in many thousands of instances, that, to produce salutary effects, they should be given every six or eight hours in the day. Dose should succeed dose uniformly, that the mild action of one should scarcely expire before another continually succeeds, and a very strict regimen should be observed. In this mode of prescribing consists the whole efficacy of the alterative plan. Mercury is corrected, and its salivant properties destroyed by antimonial sulphurs; the preparation is no longer to be considered mercurial nor antimonial, strictly speaking, but a neutralized medicine, containing the general properties of both those generous minerals. Though these compositions rarely excite any commotion in the human body, if just doses be ascertained, according to cases, circumstances, and constitutions, and by warm clothing and prudent precautions, cold be avoided in this changeable climate; yet in some very rare instances, nausea and other effects have been observed, contrary to their intentions as alteratives; to prevent which, it is an excellent method to take them after breakfast, dinner, and supper, and always to avoid acids, fruits, vegetables, salads, &c. during the whole time of their administration;

nistration; lest the particles of the compositions be so thoroughly decomposed as to defeat all their alterative intentions.

The formula commences with the mildest, and finishes with the most powerful mineral alteratives.

NO. 43. HYDRARGYRUS SULPHURATUS NIGER, VEL ÆTHIOPS MINERALIS ROWLEII.

R Sulphuris præcipitati (Lact. fulphuris),

Hydrargyri purificati, aa ℥j.

Misceantur intime in mortario vitreo vel lapideo cum pistillo simili, aut ligneo mundo, donec mercurius disparuerit.

This *æthiops mineralis* is superior to the common of the shops. It is one of the mildest alteratives, and enters the composition of pulvis alterans purificans. It is not inert and inactive, as some have imagined, and is adapted for delicate constitutions, and is useful in fumigations; but care must be taken to have it always prepared by trituration.

NO. 44. HYDRARGYRUS SULPHURATUS RUBER, VEL CINNABAR FACTITIUM.

The cinnabar is similar in its properties to the *æthiops mineral*; but rather more powerful. Its use is a mild alterative with or without nitre, camphor, or pulvis e tragacanth. compositus; but with these ingredients it is a useful remedy in the *gonorrhœa*, or *urethritis venerea*, particularly in those peculiar habits wherein more active remedies are contraindicated. It is likewise proper when the use of mercury is suspended from various causes. A

dram or dram and a half, applied twice a day, is very excellent in promoting the cure of venereal ulcers of the throat or nose, in the form of a fumigation; and thus exhibited it has cured the lues, but it is with difficulty some bear these fumes, especially if the lungs be very irritable.

Æthiops mineral, applied externally, purifies sordid venereal ulcers, and mixed with sugar and often put on the tongue, and gradually swallowed, cures venereal ulcers of the mouth, throat, and fauces, and is an useful substitute where fumigation is contraindicated.

NO. 45. PILULÆ ALTERANTES MITIORES.

R Pulveris alterantis mitioris Rowleii ℥j,

Confect. opiat. q. f. f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum j vel ij ter vel quater de die.

This is the lightest alterative after *æthiops*.

NO. 46. PILULÆ ALTERANTES FORTIORES.

R Pulveris alterantis fortioris Rowleii ℥j,

Confect. opiat. vel Damocratis q. f. f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum sumat j ter vel quater de die cum regimine, sine omnibus acidis.

It is necessary in very delicate habits to begin with half-grain pills, and gradually increase the dose to

one or two grains, according to the state of the stomach. This is not Plummer's pill, as some have imagined, but very similar. It is efficacious in many chronic diseases, in recent induration of the breasts after lying-in, or in recent cancerous affections. Numerous instances of its efficacy are well known to several of the profession. It may be used in cases where mercury cannot be exhibited, and in most complicated venereal affections, &c. &c.

NO. 47. PILULÆ ALTERANTES
FORTISSIMÆ.

R Pulveris alterantis fortissimi
Rowleii ʒj,

Confect. opiat. vel Damocrat. q.
f. f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum sumat j
ter de die cum regimine, sine omni-
bus acidis.

These pills are powerful in cutaneous venereal eruptions, in glandular or other indurations and callosities, and are useful auxiliaries in venereal complicated cases. Both this and the last are useful in scirrhus liver, so common in hot climates, and in a variety of chronic complaints; but in actual venereal cases light distant frictions should be added.

NO. 48. PILULÆ ALTERANTES
MERCURII CALCINATI.

R Hydrargyri calcinati (Merc.
calcinat.)

Sulphuris antimonii præcipitati, aa
ʒij. Contere benè in mortario lapi-
deo vel vitreo; f. pulvis.

R Hujus pulveris ʒj,

Confect. opiat. vel Damocrat. q.

f. f. pilulæ No. lx, quarum sumat j
ter vel quater de die cum regimine,
et sine acidis.

If any of the foregoing pills should occasion a laxness of the intestines, which they seldom do unless the patients eat vegetables, fruits, or use acids in salads or other foods, which are always improper in these mercurial courses, a little *tinctura opii* may be given in mist. camphorat. Camphor may likewise be added to the pills, or taken in any other form, particularly in dry skins.

NO. 49. PULVIS ALTERANS PURI-
FICANS.

R Pulveris salis nitri purissimi,
Æthiopis mineralis Rowleii, aa
ʒss.

Contere benè in mortario lapideo,
f. pulvis.

R Hujus pulveris ʒss, dividend. in
x partes, quarum capiat j ter vel
quater de die in coch. ij aquæ hord.
vel mist. camphorat.

This, in conjunction with pilulæ alterantes fortiores, is what I have generally prescribed in glandular indurations of the breasts, and in ulcerous womb cases. An extraordinary instance of success is given in the Letter against Hemlock in vol. i. of the Rational Practice of Physic. This powder has cured, in rather larger doses, ulcers of the internal surface of the rectum, piles, &c. without pills.

NO. 50. PULVIS ALTERANS ANTA-
CIDUS.

R Magnes. alb. ʒj,

Hydrarg. sulph. rub. ʒij. M. dose
ʒj ad ʒj.

This and most of the other prescriptions are amongst my Formula Medicamentorum, written for that excellent institution, the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary.

The pulvis alterans antacidus is chiefly for children, as a corrector of acidity and light alterative; it may likewise be useful for adults in larger doses.

NO. 51. PULVIS ALTERANS CINNABARIS NITROSUS.

Rx Hydrargyri sulphurati rubris (cinnab.) ʒvj,

Pulveris salis nitri purissimi,

———— e tragacanth. c. aa ʒij. M. f. pulvis, dividendus in xvj dosis, quarum capiat j ter vel quater de die in coch. iij aquæ puræ, vel misturæ camphoratæ.

This is useful in urethritis venerea, or in many cases wherein a light and mild alterative is necessary. Both this and the pulvis alterans purificans have cured inveterate ulcers of the legs, &c. in many instances, and, joined with pilulæ alterantes and fumigation, they have removed callosities of the perinæum, fistulous ulcers, &c.

NO. 52. PULVIS ALTERANS CINNABARIS.

Rx Cinnabaris fact.

Pulveris e tragacanth. c. aa ʒʒss. M. f. pulvis dividendus in xvj partes, quarum sumat j ter vel quater de die in coch. ij aquæ.

This is a light alterative, and adapted to the use of pregnant women, children, and persons of delicate constitutions. It is proper when the use of mercury is suspend-

ed, and is useful in various eruptions not of an inveterate nature.

All alteratives should be continued *many months*.

NO. 54. PULVIS ALTERANS ANTIMONIALIS.

Rx Antimon. crudi benè ppt. ʒʒss, dividend. in xvj partes, quarum sumat j bis vel ter in die cum aliquo syrupo.

With or without nitre this powder is proper when mercury has acted too powerfully on the salivary glands, to restrain its force.

Flores, or lac sulphur. are likewise proper under similar circumstances, magnesia, &c.

NO. 55. PULVIS ALTERANS ANTIMONIALIS NITROSUS.

Rx Antimon. crud. benè ppt. ʒʒss, Sacchar. alb.

Pulveris nitri purissimi,

———— e tragacanth. c. aa ʒij. M. f. pulvis dividendus in xvj partes, quarum capiat j ter vel quater de die in coch. ij aquæ hordeatæ.

This is similar in use to the former, and more adapted to inflammatory habits. It is likewise useful as an alterative and purifier in many cutaneous affections.

NO. 56. PULVIS ALTERANS MITIOR ROWLEII.

Rx Argenti vivi depuratissimi ʒij, Sulph. antimon. præcip. ʒvj.

Contere benè, donec mercurius disparuerit, f. pulvis.

NO. 57. PULVIS ALTERANS FORTIOR ROWLEII.

Rx Merc. dulcis sexies sub. præparat. trituratione cum aqua repetita, Sulph.

Sulph. antimon. præcipitat. aa ʒij.
Contere benè xx quatuor horis in
mortario vitreo, f. pulvis.

NO. 58. PULVIS ALTERANS FOR-
TISSIMUS ROWLEIL

R Hydrarg. vitriolat. (Turbith.
min.) ʒij,

Sulph. antimon. præcipitat. ʒiſs.
M. accuratissime, diu terendo in
mortario vitreo, f. pulvis.

These powders should always be composed of the preparations from Apothecaries' Hall; for none other can be depended on. The adulterations and sophistications of medicines will be hereafter fully considered and exposed in the third volume of *Schola Medicinæ*, where the black catalogue, and the means of detection, will appear in parallel columns, in the manner the physiology, scholia, &c. and pathology, are arranged in the second volume of *Schola Medicinæ*. The best intentions, and the most skilful prescriptions of the physician, may be defeated by ill-prepared remedies; therefore, those gentlemen who have all their chemical and mineral preparations from the Hall are most worthy of confidence.

Another remark is necessary. Unless the *trituration* of the alterative powders be long continued, the intimate union of the sulphureous antimonial with the hydrargyric particles will not be complete, and the remedy, consequently, will not be an alterative. The criterion, that the medicine in general is well prepared, is, that it has no sensible

action on the human frame, which likewise determines the proper dose. Medicine ought to be always adjusted more to the patient's feelings than to any preconceived opinion of certain doses, which must ever vary in practice, as every skilful physician well knows.

The next preparation is one of the most important inventions in the healing art for various purposes of venereal infection; it is *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, now called *hydrargyrus muriatus*; the former is the most proper name, because it may make practitioners reflect a little on the power of the medicine, before they prescribe. This preparation has been applauded, suspected, and in some instances condemned by those who have not been particularly exact as to its *preparation*, or who have given it in too large doses; but the most improper and most dangerous form of giving this medicine has been in *pills*; and it is with concern I see such an able and learned physician as the justly celebrated *Plenck*, of Vienna, venture to give corrosive sublimate in any form except in solution.

The least negligence in the preparer of corrosive sublimate pills, instead of curing, may prove fatal to the patient; and certainly no sage nor humane physician will risk the reputation of the art in promoting hazardous practices, that may be safely prevented by changing the mere form of the prescription.

It has been known that one *grain*
taken

taken into the stomach, in the form of a pill, or undissolved, has *corroded* the stomach, and proved fatal; and I had lately an instance where an ignorant person threw in two or three grains of corrosive, instead of dissolving it by rubbing in a glass mortar with the liquid, and it nearly destroyed the patient: I saved his life by giving him diluted volatile alkali. On inspection after death, the stomach has been found violently inflamed, and ulcerated in the spot where it was reasonably supposed the corrosive sublimate acted. If an accident of this sort happen, volatile alkali and water soon convert it into a precipitate, only productive of nausea or vomiting.

It is necessary to apprise practitioners, again, that they cannot be too cautious in being perfectly sure of the exact preparation of this medicine; for it has been known, and proved, that some of the cunning chemical artists, abroad and in England, to increase their profit, in the wholesale way, have united and sublimed *arsenic* with this preparation. The punishment of death is too favourable for these unfeeling preparers of such destructive materials; but it is said, with great regret, that many other mercurial and antimonial remedies are equally adulterated, from similar motives.

The laws hitherto invented have not been adequate to the iniquity, and nothing but the dread of capital punishment, or perpetual banishment and confiscation of property,

would awaken the barbarous operators, venders of such strong poisons, to a sense of their moral duties; but this must be left to the wisdom of the legislature, some honourable member of which may *interpose*, rise up, and put an end to these nefarious and abominable practices, as well as many others of greater notoriety in the articles of diet, particularly in bread, beer, spirits; which latter, instead of strengthening, prey upon the vitals of the industrious poor, and produce weakened habits and premature death. Commerce is the very soul of Great Britain: but medical and dietetic articles of traffic should not be suffered to injure or destroy the constitutions of human beings in any country.

The *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, now hydrargyrus muriatus, given in the usual doses, has disappointed the expectations of the faculty, as well as the mal-preparation of the remedy. Some have reported, that it will not cure a confirmed lues, so that the cure shall remain permanent; others have observed, that it occasions nausea, vomiting, and purging; and thus its mercurial intentions are defeated.

These observations may be true, some of which I have been witness to. The chief causes of these effects have either arisen from too great doses of the *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, or from its sophisticated preparation. In order to preserve the use of so valuable a medicine, and having seen its excellent antivene-

real effects between thirty and forty years ago, as prescribed by Van Swieten, who gave too large doses, even for robust soldiers or sailors; I diminished the dose, and united it in aqueous solution of camphor with *tartarum emeticum*, now called *antimonium tartarizatum*. I never gave above the sixteenth, twelfth, or eighth of a grain of each, always dissolved and diluted, so that it never disturbs the stomach with nausea, nor irritates the intestines. The antimonial adds to its penetrating powers, and, thus administered, it is exceedingly efficacious in promptly removing chancres, venereal ulcers of the throat, nose, palate, nocturnal pains in the bones, and most violent venereal symptoms, old ulcers of the urethra occasioning gleans, and, in short, in every species of lues venerea.

Other prescribers have given from a quarter of a grain to a whole grain, once or twice in the day; few stomachs will bear these dangerous doses: but nearly the same remedy, administered in my mode, has excellent effects, without in the least disturbing the constitution.

Numerous practitioners in this metropolis, who have prepared the remedy from my prescription, have seen the excellent antivenereal effects of the *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, joined with *tartarum emeticum* and camphor, in the following forms:

NO. 59. SOLUTIO MERCURII CORROSIVI SUBLIMATI ANTIMONIALIS MITIOR.

℞ Mercur. corrosiv. sublimat.

Tart. emet. aa. gr. j. Solve in mist. camphorat. ℥viiij, accurate terendo in mortario vitreo cum simili pistillo, sensim addendo mist. camphorat. fiat solutio, cujus sumat ℥ss (a wooden table spoonful), ter de die in coch. iv infus. sassafras.

This first prescription contains the *sixteenth* of a grain of each of the materials in a dose. A wooden spoon is recommended, because all metallic substances would be improper; a glass measure however would be much better, and, as exactness is necessary, it might be safest to order the remedy in a draught.

NO. 60.

℞ Solutionis mercur. corrosiv. sublimat. antimonialis mitioris ℥ss exacte,

Mist. camphorat. ℥jss. M. f. haustus bis vel ter de die sumendus.

If the patient may be supposed to well bear the eighth of a grain, two or three times a-day; then the following form may be administered.

NO. 61. SOLUTIO MERCURII CORROSIVI ANTIMONIALIS FORTIOR.

℞ Mercur. corros. sub.

Tart. emet. aa gr. ij. Solve in mistur. camphorat. ℥viiij; terendo in mortario vitreo, cum simili pistillo, sensim addendo mist. camphorat. f. accuratissime, solutio.

NO. 62.

℞ Hujus solutionis ℥ss,

Spt. lavend. c. ℥j,

Mist. camphorat. ℥ijss. F. haustus, mane et nocte sumendus.

The

The solution may be taken in sassafras tea, decoctum lignorum, sarsaparilla, or Lisbon diet-drink, according to the will of the prescriber. The main force of medicine is in the solution, and whatever it may be diluted with is only intended to divide and disperse its active particles (so that it may act insensibly on the stomach), and to disguise its taste.

Those, who would give the mercurius corrosivus alone, may use the following form:

NO. 63.

R Mercur. corrosiv. sub. gr. ij.
Solve in mist. camphorat. ℥viiij, te-
rendo in mortario vitreo, sensim ad-
dendo misturam camphoratam, f.
solutio perfectissima.

NO. 64.

R Hujus solutionis ℥ij,
Decoct. sarsaparillæ ℥ijss. F. hauf-
tus, mane et nocte, vel ter de die
sumendus.

MORE POWERFUL.

R Hujus solutionis ℥ss,
Decoct. sarsaparillæ ℥ijss. F. hauf-
tus mane et nocte, vel ter de die
sumendus.

In irritable intestines opiates may be added; but it must be observed, that all mercurial courses are apt to act on the stomach or intestinal canal, whether frictions alone, or alterative courses, be adopted.

Conjointly with these solutions, in all chronic venereal affections, I recommend mercurial frictions two

or three times a week; but seldom to affect the mouth, or very slightly so. When the mercurial halitus is perceived, which is well known to all experienced practitioners, it is advisable to slacken the use of the remedies by diminishing the doses, or, for a few days, *wholly* to decline them, and use an aperient. Many of the extraordinary cures by *Ward's White Drop* were performed by a similar plan. That subtle empiric gave his drop three evenings in succession, and then rested three evenings: that preparation and a number of others, by which, as secrets, puffed off in newspapers, the artists have accumulated immense wealth, are similar to the solutions just prescribed, or to the pills with turbith mineral, calcined mercury, &c. or are solutions of mercury in nitrous acid, diluted. It is a fact, not to be denied, that great cures have been performed by the mild alterative methods which quacks have adopted, and which regular practitioners have neglected or despised. The whole secret consists in giving such small doses of mercurials, &c. as never to affect the mouth, nor create any violent action in the habit. Let regular practitioners take this hint, apply such plans with their superior judgment in practice, and empiricism, often so injurious to society, through want of discrimination, would be chased away from the face of the earth in most venereal and other cases.

In addition to the above solutions another may be introduced, which has formed the basis of the pretended vegetable syrups of empirics, which is the acidum nitrosum fumans; or Glauber's spiritus nitri fumans, or strong nitrous acid, in which *argentum vivum* is dissolved.

NO. 65. SOLUTIO HYDRARGYRI
NITRATI.

Rx Argent. viv. (Hydrarg. purificat.) ʒij,

Acid. nitros. fumantis ʒʒ. Solve secundum artem, f. solutio.

NO. 66.

Rx Hujus solutionis gut. x,
Aq. distillat. ℞j. F. mistura.

NO. 67.

Rx Hujus mixturæ ʒʒ,
Syrupi simp. ʒijj,

Aq. pur. ʒijʒ. M. f. haustus bis vel ter de die sumendus.

This composition I have seen used; but it must be remembered, that unless the solution of *hydrargyrus purificatus in acido nitroso* be diluted very much, it is a caustic; but, thus mixed, it is a safe and efficacious medicine, and has been long given by the pretenders of cure without mercury, to their deluded patients, mixed with syrups, &c.

These are some of the arts of chemistry, and are similar to the alchemistical deceptions and pretensions of converting baser metals into gold; which, by some legerdemain trick, has been palmed upon the credulity of mankind as a fact. The University of Oxford, and the

Royal Society, have not forgotten the mysterious and successful stratagem of a Mr. Price, who obtained the degree of doctor in medicine at Oxford, and afterwards committed suicide. I knew his operator, Philip Garden, and other wild alchemists, who were always pretending to wonders, but produced nothing; all their chemical boastings, as usual, evaporated for ever *in fumo*.

Thus has been delivered the chief of all that has hitherto been observed relative to mercurials and mineral alteratives. The latter is a rich and productive field, still capable of improvable cultivation. Let the plans be applied with candour, and attention equal to that with which they are communicated, and society at large may reap the benefit. Let not preconceived opinions, hypothesis, nor radical prejudices, militate against facts established and founded on long experience. Let those who are warm advocates for mercurial frictions and powerful salivations only, not shut their eyes to truth, and suppose no other method capable of removing the *lues venerea confirmata*, but by those distressing and powerful mercurial courses; for salivations, even repeated, often fail, as every candid and experienced practitioner must have observed. In many such instances the cases are complicated, or the salivation excited has been too powerful for the disorder and
the

the patient's constitution. A violent commotion is excited in the body without curing the disease, and the rough effects of mercury have produced more mischief than the lues. Different remedies cure in different countries. Plenck, of Vienna, succeeds with the simple *argentum vivum* and mucilaginous gums, &c. Van Swieten, at the same place, cured immense numbers by the solution of corrosive sublimate; and Colombier, who wrote *La Médecine Militaire*, by order of the French government, applauds, in very expressive language, the success of the same remedy, and gives many hundreds of successful instances. In this changeable climate of Great Britain, what has effectually cured the disease in other countries, has not so well succeeded; the cause of which may be attributed sometimes to the indolence, or carelessness in preparing remedies that require long trituration; as Plenck's union of hydrargyrus with mucilage of gum arabic, &c. at other times to the sudden changes of the weather closing the pores, retarding the operation of medicaments by repeated colds, &c.: for warmth promotes and cold retards the operation of mercurials, or alteratives. In hot climates, I have seen the disorder apparently removed by the heat of the weather and constant perspiration; yet, on

returning to a cold country, the venereal symptoms have reappeared; so that profuse perspiration has only suspended and checked, not eradicated, the lues venerea.

Numerous venereal cases are very often complicated with other chronic diseases, as scrophula, or diseased lymphatic vessels and glands, scurvy, leprosy, and various eruptive complaints; rheumatism, gout, &c. &c. In such instances, mercury alone and salivation often fail; but mineral alteratives cure. It should be recollected, that no one plan of cure is infallible. Confined practice, and contracted notions, either of the disease or its remedies, therefore, are by no means adequate to the variations of cases, constitutions, and climates. He who discriminates most accurately, and applies remedies most judiciously, will best succeed in curing all diseases.

Though many hints, observations, and admonitions, introduced, may be superfluous to the learned and experienced; yet they may prove, in several instances, of the utmost utility to those less informed junior practitioners, who have sufficient modesty and good sense to suppose they stand in need of instruction from those, whose opportunities and long practice enable them to judge of the perfections and imperfections of the art,

OTHER REMEDIES MENTIONED IN THE TREATISE.

LOTIO PENETRANS.

Rx Merc. corrosiv. sub. gr. j. Solve in aq. distillat. ℥viii, terendo in mortario vitreo cum simili pistillo, f. solutio.

This is useful in chronic disorders of the eyes, whether venereal or not, in gutta serena, opacities of the cornea, obstructions of the nasal duct, fistula lachrymalis, and as a tepid fomentation in those cases wherein suppressed running, &c. has caused the venereal ophthalmia. Neither the eye nor the penis, from their sensibility, can, in general, bear above a grain of the corrosive to eight ounces of water.

PENILUVIA.

Peniluvia are applications to the penis, commonly warm, in which that part is soaked or bathed.

PENILUVIUM EMOLLIENS.

Rx Flor. sambuci ℥j,

Aq. bullientis ℔j. F. peniluvium, peni applicandum tepidum ter vel quater de die.

Though the relaxing or emollient powers are chiefly in the warm water alone; yet the addition of the florès sambuci makes it a pleasant application in the inflammatory phymosis, and paraphymosis. Milk may be added, or milk and water answer these purposes, or even warm water.

PENILUVIUM CAMPHORATUM.

Rx Camphor. ʒss,

Amygdal. decort. ʒij. Contere benè, deinde adde gradatim

Aq. pur. ℔j. F. peniluvium.

This is more resolving than the former, and is useful for similar purposes; it is likewise lightly antiseptic, and is proper in ulcers of the penis that are inflamed, or have a tendency to gangrene, &c. or for keeping the penis clean in urethritis venerea.

PENILUVIUM MERCURIALE.

Rx Hydrarg. purificat. ʒj,

Pulv. gum. arab. ʒiij. Contere benè cum aliquot guttis aquæ puræ donec abiit in mukum perfectum; deinde, adde sensim

Aq. pur. ℔j. F. peniluvium peni applicandum tepidum ter vel quater de die.

This mercurial peniluvium may be used in urethritis venerea, or in those nodes, or little knots, which may be felt in the *corpus spongiosum penis* on the under part of the urethra, in cases of clap, with or without chordee; in diseases of the urethra, and particularly of the prostate gland and perineum, arising from astringent injections, and in all cases wherein the running suddenly stops; or in those urethral ulcers that discharge purulent pus, and are difficult of cure. If half a dram of camphor be added, being first dipped in *spiritus vini rectificatus*, and rubbed and united *secundum artem* to the other ingredients, the remedy is rendered more efficacious as a resolvent, and may be called

PENILUVIUM MERCURIALE CAMPHORATUM.

These different mercurial and camphorate preparations may be used as baths in prostate and perineal diseases, in callosities and ulcers about the anus, in indurated testicles and epididymis, under which circumstances the patient may sit on a bidet, properly filled with the warm liquid. In diseases likewise of the periosteum, nodes in the arms, shins, &c. the same mercurial and camphorate remedies may be used as pediluvia, baths, fomentations, &c. as rational and useful auxiliaries to any other mode of treatment adopted; and to render them more resolvent, penetrating, and efficacious, a dram of nitre may be dissolved in each quart of the liquid, for mercurial baths, &c. *Solutio hydrargyri nitrati*, thirty drops to a quart of liquid or tepid water, likewise makes a very powerful solution for pediluvia. It deterges the scaly cuticula of dry skins, renders the inhalents more pervious; and its mercurial penetrating particles may be in some measure absorbed.

Whether corrosive sublimate, or the last solution, be preferred for these complaints; it should be recollected, the cutis can only bear a very small portion for the purposes of absorption; for, if the preparations be too strong, instead of absorption, they crisp up the minute lymphatic and other returning vessel, &c. contract the oscula, and inflame the skin; by which their intentions are defeated.

FOTUS RESOLVENS.

R Salis nitri 3j. Solve in infus. flor. sambuc. ℥j. F. fofus.

This fomentation is useful in all inflammations without excoriation, and is proper in paraphymosis, phymosis, swelled testicles, inflamed perineum or prostate, *ante suppurationem*, and any other case of external inflammation; or as a pediluvium, bath, &c. whilst internal antiphlogistics and regimen are prescribed, for attempting the cure of inflammation by resolution. If camphor be added to this fofus, its curative intentions are augmented. Four grains of corrosive sublimate, dissolved in every quart of the above liquid, render it powerfully antivenereal, as a pediluvium, &c.

INJECTIONS, LOTIONS, LINIMENTS, UNGUENTA, &c.

Though I have rarely used injections of the desiccative or astringent kind; yet it may be proper to give some formula of those that are most useful, and least likely to do mischief.

INJECTIO DESICCANS.

R Extract. saturni Goulardi gtt. xx,

Aq. flor. sambuc. 3viiij. F. injectio parùm cujus applicetur ope syphonis in pruritu urethræ post gonorrhœam.

The same may be used as a lotion for the excretion that happens between the glans and prepuce, which very often is not venereal; but sometimes arises from coition

coition with a female labouring under an acrid fluor albus. It may be applied safely in many other cases of light cuticular irritation, &c.; but for saturnine applications the celebrated Goulard may be consulted, with this caution, that pallies have been the consequence of too free a use of the preparations of lead, called saturnine.

LOTIO VITRIOLATA ZINCATA.

R̄ Zinci vitriolat. gr. viij. Solve in Aq. rosæ ʒviij. F. lotio.

This is proper in ophthalmia after the inflammation has subsided, and is useful for the same purposes as the last. Vitriolic solutions, either for the eyes or urethra, should never exceed the strength of the above; lest they crisp up the very minute vessels, cause a contracted cicatrix in the urethra, and lay the foundation of future strictures.

LOTIO DETERGENS PRO ULCERIBUS.

R̄ Hydrarg. muriat. gr. iv. Solve in aquæ flor. sambuc. ʒviij. F. lotio.

This is proper to cleanse chancres and ulcers, &c.

LINIMENTUM SATURNINUM.

Extract. saturni Goulardi ʒij,
Ol. amygdal. ʒxiv. M. f. linimentum.

This is useful in various cuticular and other inflammations, in burns, scalds, for parts that may be chafed by friction, &c. &c.

All preparations of mercury with *aqua calcis*, though much in vogue, are hazardous, and had better be never applied.

LINIMENTUM CAMPHORATUM.

R̄ Camphoræ ʒij. Solve in Ol. amygdal. ʒij. F. linimentum.

Useful in indurations of the breast of lying-in women, in painful inflammatory tumours, scirrhus, &c.; and if two drams of unguentum hydrargyri fortius be added, it becomes an useful antivenereal liniment in perineal swellings; or as a light friction for pregnant or delicate women, children, &c. and is then called linimentum camphoræ mercuriale.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI MITIUS.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS.

Care should be strictly taken that these unguents be accurately prepared, or the purposes of the most skilful prescriber, which has often happened, may be not only defeated, but the healing art disgraced.

UNGUENTUM MERCURIALE CAMPHORATUM.

R̄ Camphor. in ol. amygd. imbutæ ʒij,

Ung. hydrarg. mit. ʒij. M. accurate terendo in mortario. F. unguentum.

This ointment is useful on various occasions; but particularly in recent tumefaction of the prostate or perineum, from the hazardous use of *astringent injections*; in swelled testicles to be added to poultices; in lymphatic indurations, or little knots observable in the urethra; in scirrhi, *not* of the cancerous kind; for there *mercury* is improper; but in cases complicated with

lues this ointment may be advantageously applied. Camphor assists in promoting the absorption of the mercury, as may be easily conceived by those who comprehend the action of terebinthines, &c. on the absorbent system; and it prevents those *vesications* and cuticular affections, observable from mercurial unguents. Some of those effects, however, may be justly attributed to the addition of *Venice turpentine* in preparing the unguenta, to save labour, or to the addition of *balsam. sulph. terebinth.* which some artists have practised for the similar purposes of extinguishing speedily the mercurial globules.

It is best for surgeons to attend to the preparation of these unguents, and to never suffer any rancid *axungia* to be used; to take special care, that the trituration be completed, and that the *argentum vivum* be perfectly pure, as directed by the Dispensatory of our Royal College of Physicians in London. The respectable apothecaries, who have their principal remedies from Apothecaries' Hall, or who can be depended on, are most to be confided in, not only in these, but all other medicinal preparations of importance.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRATI RUBRI.

Rx Hydrarg. nitrat. rub. lævigat. ʒij.

Cerät. spermat. ceti ʒij. M. f. unguentum.

This is proper for dressing and promoting a discharge from chan-

crees, and most ulcers that require deterging. Instead of the ceratum album, yellow basilicon, or marsh-mallow ointment, may be used; but these last are too stimulating in general for chancres, though proper for opened buboes.

It is a dangerous practice to apply caustics to chancres; for there is great reason to conclude, from many instances, that the caustic practice, instead of destroying the local disease, has driven the minute particles of the venereal virus into the constitution, and has absolutely been productive of many of those poxes, that within these few years have appeared after such treatment; or the same has happened by calomel with aqua calcis, and such like compositions. The incongruity of these practices might be easily explained by solid reasons.

The most secure mode of treating the *chancre*, is to promote a discharge by a weak detergent wash, and by the last-mentioned or some such ointment, and to continue its use, with proper internals, until these little ulcers be perfectly healed.

If they be evil-conditioned, and not disposed to digest, and do not appear clean, with *pus laudabile*, then cinnamon fumigations are necessary. If they be foul, flaccid, and spreading, powdered bark and camphor becomes a proper dressing, and the cortex and vitriolated zinc should be often given, according to constitution and the pressure of circumstances.

Another hazardous practice in
the

the treatment of the inflammatory stage of the phymosis or paraphymosis has been productive of mortification. This is the inconsiderate use of leeches in bad habits. Some have lost the major part of their penis, and even their lives, by this practice; others have suffered under large spreading ulcers, destroying the glans penis, &c.; others have been obliged to undergo circumcision; others have suffered from dangerous hæmorrhages, which the greatest skill could with difficulty remedy. In many such cases, the physician is obliged to lose all sight of the venereal complaint, and direct his mind and practice spiritedly to the present, and highly dangerous symptoms. The whole force of medicine should be applied to prevent the spreading of the mortification, so destructive to the future happiness of the afflicted patient, if he should escape with life.

The medical world have been leech mad lately, and have done no small mischief by depending on such practice, even in some putrid-tending diseases, when more important methods of cure presented themselves. It should be remembered, that caution is necessary wherever there may be the least apprehension of gangrene; for if they be applied, they are sure of promoting it. Topical bleedings may be sometimes useful; but, if misapplied, often do irreparable injury.

As to the application of leeches to the scrotum, which is not the seat of the disease, in inflammation and induration of the testicles; a

very little anatomical and physiological reflection must demonstrate the absurdity of such a trifling practice, in so important a disease. Large bleedings, active aperients, antivenereal and nitrous baths, fomentations, emollient poultices of real linseed meal, with the linimentum camphoræ mercuriale, calomel, camphor, antimony, &c. internally, and a suspending bandage, promptly remove that complaint. It should be remembered, that swelled testicles arise, in general, from the *venereal virus* in the urethra, being stopped in its running off by *astringent injections*, &c. and thus transferred from its original seat to the testes. When the disorder is thus energetically treated, there is less likelihood of any induration remaining in the epididymis, than by the inadequate practice too commonly adopted on the fallacious hypothetical opinions, that it is a *simple inflammation* unconnected with *venereal infection*, which, like many other wild speculations of pretended reasoners on venereal complaints, have amused the authors and influenced the credulous, but have terribly injured society.

LOTIO COSMETICA.

Rx Amygdal. decort. No. iv,
Mucilag. gum. arab. ʒij. Contere
benè, deinde adde sensim
Aq. flor. sambuc. ʒviij,
Mercurii corrosiv. sublimat. gr.
viij. Solve terendo in mortario vi-
treo cum pistillo simili. F. lotio cos-
metica.

This is an excellent lotion for those eruptions that happen in the face,
from

from surfeits or from morbid venereal causes, and are incurable by any other means. The sebaceous glands of the cheeks, in some instances, seem to be the seat of those disagreeable pimples and eruptions in the face, which in many cases become habitual. They have always been considered very difficult of cure; but with the pilulæ alterantes internally, and this lotion applied with a sponge three or four times a day, many extraordinary cures have been effected; and some amongst females, who had been long rendered miserable by those complaints, which by the fair sex are considered serious drawbacks upon beauty.

CAUSTICUM CAMPHORATUM.

Rx Spt. nitri fumantis Glanberi ʒvj,
Camphor. tritæ ʒiij.

Digerantur in vase probe obturato.
Facta solutione, oleum supernatans
separetur.

CAUSTICUM MERCURIALE.

Rx Argent. viv. ʒij. Solve in acidi
nitrosi fumantis ʒʒ secundum artem
in vase vitreo aperto.

Either of these, applied by a sponge fixed in a quill, or reed, or by a glass pen, on different species of excrescences, warts, &c. act very powerfully in their prompt destruction. They are likewise useful on various occasions as caustics, for purposes that require great accuracy, lest adjacent parts be injured, which, in general, should be covered with defensive plasters before the caustic be applied, in many cases, for security.

PERPETUAL BLISTERS are ne-

cessary for venereal diseases of the joints, for tophs, nodes, and in thickened periosteum of bones, whilst other remedies are applied to eradicate the disease. Their continued use frequently prevents carious bones, which my long experience has fully confirmed. Whoever reflects on the universal connexion of the cellular structure, or tela cellulosa of the whole body, and the communication of the cells, will easily perceive how blisters, setons, &c. act in many local complaints, accompanied or not with universal affection. It is by perpetual blisters that I have succeeded chiefly in curing a new species of watery head of infants and children, which I call *hydrocephalus medius*, and which, by numerous dissections, has been discovered. The fluid is not in the ventricles of the brain, but between the *pia mater* and *tunica arachnoidea*, and sometimes extends all down the *specus vertebralis*. —All that has been observed on this important subject will be hereafter communicated, as innumerable infants fall victims to this obscure and fatal disease, if not timely discovered, or remedied.

PUNCTURES are sometimes necessary in the glans penis, scrotum, &c. to evacuate fluid, filling and distending the cells of the cellular structure; but these operations should be performed with the greatest circumspection and caution in depraved or debilitated habits, lest gangrene ensue.

These punctures are what I have so successfully recommended in

anasarcous dropsies; but with all due caution. I have seen many gallons of water issue from a simple and single puncture of the legs, by which the bloated face and whole body have been evacuated of the dropical serum. A remarkable instance of this sort occurred in a medical gentleman, aged seventy-five, who had previous jaundice, succeeded by hydrops thoracis, and anasarca universalis, in the most imminent danger from orthopnoea and asthma. That eminent anatomist Mr. Cruikshank performed the punctures, and, notwithstanding the advanced age of the patient, accompanied with numerous untoward circumstances, after immense quantities of water were evacuated, by the addition of tonics, preparations of scilla and hydrargyrus, &c. &c. the cure was completed, and the patient now remains perfectly well.

These punctures are not always safe; but if gangrene should happen, either in the penis, scrotum, or adjacent parts, after punctures, leeches,

or from the depraved state of the fluids, and debility of the solids; then a spirited antiseptic treatment can alone save the parts of generation, or the patient's life. Hitherto a mixed inconsistent practice has been adopted, and is even now continued, by others who are either unacquainted with the improvements published in the Rational Practice of Physic, or by those who, in opposition to all sound reasoning and the most striking facts, will not depart from their fatal prejudices. If any medical practitioner should still doubt the efficacy of the consistent practice already published, he may visit the febrile, small-pox, and other wards of the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary; and, a conviction, from innumerable facts, must establish the uniform administration of the opposing powers to devastating putrid affections, beyond the possibility of suspicion or refutation *.

In venereal cases, accompanied with putrid-tending or gangrenous

* An extraordinary instance happened some few months since. A female who came into the house, about the eighth month of pregnancy, was infected with a severe confluent small-pox. On the third day of the suppurating stage, she was delivered of a child, who had the small-pox in a state of supuration one day later than the mother. The fœtus, therefore, had gone through the stages of the small-pox in the mother's womb. The child lived some days, but died convulsed, and is preserved in spirits. The mother perfectly recovered, is now living in good health, and is another confirmation of the great utility of prescribing antiseptics in the earliest stages of putrid-tending diseases, without any regard to *beat, quick pulse*, &c. which are some of the rocks others continually split on, to the destruction of the human species. This patient took bark, vitriolic acid, tinctura rosarum as drink, and wine. This is the only successful mode of treating all putrid-tending diseases, now confirmed, by thousands of cases, and would be very useful in *yellow fevers*, which I formerly experienced, when in the *West Indies, America*, &c.

affections, the exact method used successfully in fevers, cannot be always applied; for that *divine acid*, the vitriolic, cannot always be prescribed, particularly if the stomach or intestines be irritated by mercurials, or be disposed to diarrhæa, or dysentery; symptoms not uncommon in mercurial courses. If the *vitriolic acid* and *cortex* may be prudently prescribed, they are the most efficacious; the next in force are *cortex* and *vitriolated zinc*; and, thirdly, strong solutions of *campher* with decorticated almonds, and the learned Hoffman's *anodyne liquid*. All bleedings, vomits, relaxing sudorifics, saline, neutralized volatiles, or fossil or vegetable alkalis, with acids, are septic, incongruous, and injurious; all bitters, bracers, corroborants, wine, spirits, and vitriolics, consonant and beneficial.

MISTURA ANTISEPTICA ACIDA.

℞ Extract. cort. peruv. ʒss.
Solve in decoct. ejusdem ʒxiv,

Tinct. ejusdem ʒij,

Acid. vitriolic. dilut. ʒij. M. f. mistura, cujus sumat coch. iij secunda, tertia, quarta, vel sexta quaque hora secundum violentiam morbi.

Eodem tempore, Tinctura rosarum bibenda est pro potu ordinario, cum vino rubro.

MISTURA ANTISEPTICA ZINCATA.

℞ Decoct. cort. peruv. ʒxiv,

Tinct. ejusdem comp. ʒij,

Zinci vitriolat. gr. iij. Solve, f. mistura, de qua sumat coch. iij, tertia quaque hora.

MISTURA ANTISEPTICA CAMPHORATA.

℞ Camphoræ ʒij,

Amygdal. decort. ʒss,

Sacchar. alb. ʒiij. Contere bene, deinde adde gradatim

Aq. pur. ʒxiv,

— cinnam. ʒjss,

Liquor. anodyn. Hoff. ʒss. M. cujus sumat coch. iij, tertia vel quarta quaque hora.

To the first and second of these prescriptions, if diarrhæa succeed their use, confectio opiata ad ʒiij may be added, to prevent their passing too suddenly through the intestines. To the last mixture, for the same purpose, may be added from one to two drams of Tinctura opii.

If diarrhæa or dysentery happen during a mercurial course, or salivation; then they must be restrained by the following:

℞ Extract. ligni Campechens. ʒij.
Solve in Aq. cinnam. ʒiijss,

Mist. cretaceæ ʒxj,

Tinct. cardamom. c. ʒx,

— opii ʒij. M. f. mistura, de qua capiat coch. iij pro re nata, diarrhæa molesta; or,

℞ Mist. cretaceæ ʒxivss,

Confect. opiat. ʒiij,

Tinct. cinnam. ʒjss. M. f. mistura.

From a bad habit, the cavernous and spongy structure of the penis sometimes mortifies, and spreads rapidly. In which instances, the depending on opium, as too commonly practised, is often the cause of the loss of the penis, or the patient's life. *Opium* should never be prescribed with any other view, in mortifications, than to prevent the antiseptics passing through the intestines. The profuse appli-

cation

cation and abuse of opium, lately, like many other wild conceits of the present day, were founded in erroneous principles, and have been, when misapplied, destructive to thousands. A more noble medicine than opium is not known in the whole materia medica; but to prescribe it merely to appease and palliate, when powerful causes ought to be removed by more appropriate and decided remedies, is to hasten an easy dissolution of the patient, without attempting the most specific means of recovery.

In spasmodic affections, as convulsions, tremors, &c. from either an over-use of mercury, or the venereal virus acting powerfully on the nervous system, camphor, musk, and bark, assafoetida, valerian, or preparations of zinc, are proper; all which complaints may be found in the second volume of the Rational Practice of Physic, and their proper treatment.

In venereal affections of the lungs, as cough, tubercles, ulcerated lungs, &c. oily emulsions with opiates, elixir pargoric, and squills, ammoniacum and volatiles, pil. ex hydragyro, e styrace et scilla, perpetual blisters to the scrobiculus cordis, according to circumstances, are to be prescribed. Ulcerated lungs, and the consumption arising therefrom, are oftener fatal than curable.

HÆMORRHAGES.

Fatal hæmorrhages sometimes arise from ulcers or gangrene of the penis, in which case styptics of

powdered burnt alum, solutions of white or blue vitriol, or strong aqua vegeto-mineralis, are proper. I have checked these hæmorrhages by raising the penis, or its remains, against the *symphysis pubis*, and retaining it there by light bandage, compress, and gentle pressure, and have succeeded in checking or restraining hæmorrhages that might otherwise have become fatal.

As to the hæmorrhages arising from *cruel burning caustic bougies*, introduced up the urethra, they have lately proved highly dangerous, and even fatal. In such miserable cases the vitriolic styptics are proper; but if coagulated blood plug up the urethra, a flexible or other catheter, or bougie, gently introduced up the passage, is necessary, to clear the way for the passing of the urine, which by its warmth frequently produces fresh hæmorrhage. Internally, in such cases, vitriolated zinc, bark, vitriolic acid, and such remedies, without spirituous stimulants, are useful; if the patient escape with life from the dangerous hæmorrhage. The application of fiery spirits of turpentine, as an injection, in such dangerous bleedings, which some have recommended, must have arisen entirely from forgetting the *exquisite sensibility* of the urethra, and the very pungent, heating, and stimulating qualities of such a *violent* remedy to such a tender part. It is a dangerous thing for men to write prescriptions, who seem unacquainted with the powers and qualities of

remedies;

remedies; but it is to be seriously lamented, that many recent works in surgery are extremely defective in the structure of practical pre-

scription. *Basis, adjuvans, corrigens, constituens, dosis, &c.* should be well understood in all complex formulæ.

RECAPITULATION, ADMONITIONS, AND MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

ON FRICTIONS, &c.

I. **T**HE cure of every species of venereal infection requires mercury alone, or combined with antimonial sulphurs.

II. It is necessary, for every person who undertakes the cure of venereal affections, to previously understand anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics; for without the three former it is impossible to comprehend the structure of parts, living functions of the human body, or ravages of diseases; and without the latter, it is impossible to skilfully prescribe in the variety of cases constantly occurring *. Internally, too large doses of mercurials have been administered; which it is hoped this work will correct.

III. The frictions, with unguentum hydrargyri, so as to saturate the infected body with mercury without exciting salivation, if conducted with judgment, will cure most species of venereal contagion; but in complicated cases, antimonial sulphurs may be joined, to act as alteratives.

IV. The various opinions and disputes on the nature of the venereal particles, which prove infectious, show that the disputants know nothing of its real nature.

V. The lues venerea can be received without primary local infection; but such instances rarely happen.

VI. The venereal virus may be in the system some years before it makes its appearance; but such cases do not occur so often as some believe.

VII. There are three kinds of affection. 1. *Recent*, attended with primary local symptoms. 2. *Confirmed*, when received into the habit, occasioning general contamination of the system, which soon succeeds local affection. 3. *Inveterate*, when it may have remained long in the habit without producing symptoms, or when reappearing after an imperfect cure.

VIII. The symptoms that may be judged *recent* are, the urethritis venerea, chancres or buboes, phymosis, or paraphymosis, &c. that in a few

* It is a great pleasure to find, that the plan I formed in *Schola Medicinæ*, by arranging the physiology, pathology, &c. in columns, has greatly facilitated and abridged the most difficult medical studies.

days succeed coition. *Confirmed*, when the symptoms appear many weeks after the supposed reception of the infection, obstinate chancres, &c. tubercles, venereal warts, and other excrescences; sudden stoppage of the discharge from the urethra from the *imprudent use of astringents*; for, in this case, the primary local affection frequently degenerates into general disease.

IX. The urethral discharge, chancres, buboes, &c. arising a few days after coition, though apparent local affections; yet they ought to be treated with mercury, from the impossibility of being certain that the system has not received any infection.

X. The opinions of *Astruc*, *Boerhaave*, and others, that the venereal virus is becoming milder, and in time would be extinct, are erroneous, which practical facts daily prove; but there are few incurables, and even the most obstinate cases can be palliated. The difficulty of curing some arises from the debilitated state of patients, and the complication of the venereal virus with other diseases.

XI. The methods of cure adopted by the first practitioners, by purifiers, baths, deterfive liniments, sweating in ovens, by cauteries, &c. failed.

XII. Mercury was first used by Theodore, Villanova, and afterwards by Fallopius, Carpus, and Vigo, with many others, externally, from its known effects in cutaneous diseases.

XIII. Mercury afterwards fell into disuse from the timidity of physicians not applying it in sufficient quantity to effect a cure.

XIV. Recourse was then had to such remedies as had been employed in the islands from whence the disease had been imported into Europe, as guaiacum, china root, sarsaparilla, sassafras, and such European herbs and roots as seemed to bear the greatest analogy to those, amongst which was mezereon, &c. &c. They are said to have formerly cured the disease; but this is much doubted, except in hot climates: now they are prescribed as auxiliaries. They never in European climates cure the disorder; in the West Indies and America they generally fail; and, though in those climates they seem to remove symptoms, I have known many instances of these supposed cures, on returning to Europe, wherein the venereal symptoms have reappeared with redoubled violence.

XV. After the unsuccessful trial of these remedies, and the destruction of thousands, mercury was again employed, which had hitherto been considered a poison, more from its injudicious application than any other cause. At first, red precipitate, by *Mathiolus* and others; mercurius dulcis, panacea mercurialis, æthiops mineralis, violet mercury, turbith mineral, white precipitate, &c.; but their effects were in general too vio-

lent or ineffectual to be successful, and the major part are now banished practice for internal use.

XVI. Mercurial frictions were then recommended by Fracastorius, 1564. Salivation, however, was over-excited, and the ingenuity of the contributors to alleviate human misery was employed to invent safe internal remedies. *Corrosive sublimate* was known and used by Cavalier and others, and Louis XIV. that great protector of all the liberal sciences, arts, and ingenious men, through the influence of that greatest of ministers, the immortal COLBERT, purchased the method of preparing *panacea mercurialis*, for the benefit of all his people and the whole world. No prince ever existed, who, on numerous occasions, so distinguished himself as that monarch, for encouraging the cultivation of science, as may be seen in numerous grand institutions for science and literature, in the city of Paris, where I formerly studied surgery, &c.

XVII. The *modus operandi* of mercury in curing venereal affections is unknown; but its application as a specific for the disease is well comprehended by the skilful. In some preparations, as by unguents, a large quantity is sometimes necessary; in others a few grains of mercury, judiciously administered, completely cure, as *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*; now called *hydrargyrus muriatus*.

XVIII. There are four kinds of external application of mercury; by frictions, which have been most universally successful*; by plasters, which are now considered useless, unless to indurated glands, &c.; by lotions, which are not now depended on; and by fumigations of cinnabar, which, though useful in ulcers of the nose, throat, perineum, &c. are not alone sufficiently powerful to remove inveterate venereal affections.

XIX. Though salivation will in many cases cure; yet it is impracticable in delicate subjects, as they cannot bear a sufficient quantity to eradicate the disease.

XX. Salivation is unnecessary and prejudicial, except in particular cases, for it carries off the mercury suddenly, which should remain long in the habit to remove obstructions, indurations, &c. caused by the venereal virus. It is productive of violent inflammations of the face,

* Frictions were employed with different intentions: 1. To excite no sensible effect, as first published, 1512, by Almenar, and lately readopted by Chicoineau and many others. 2. To raise a salivation. 3. To promote a diarrhœa, as recommended by *Default*. The first, without salivation; if any affection of the mouth appeared, a sulphur purge was given, as an antisalivant, and the frictions omitted a few days. The second was adopted by Boerhaave, Astruc, and Petit. The third was effected first by frictions, and then clysters of senna decoction were administered, or jalap, &c. if necessary.

ulcers of the mouth, tongue, throat, glands, &c. which are light effects in comparifon of others, as faintings, lethargy, continual fever, fuffocation, lofs of teeth, and rupture of the falivary ducts, dangerous hæmorrhages, bloody flux, &c. which are the more lamentable from being, at times, above the reach of medicine. This violent method fhould therefore be exploded, although fhongly recommended by Aftuc, Boerhaave, and Petit, with their followers, which may be faid to be the prevailing prejudice of their time rather than their own errors.

XXI. Frictions without falivation, if fhilfully conducted and fufficiently long continued, extinguifh the virus without any increafe of the excretions, and confequently do not impair the ftrength of the patient, nor produce the mifchiefs attendant on falivation. The addition of camphor to the unguentum is proper; but fulphur not, as it may fo counteract the intentions of mercury as to prevent its efficacy. The laft method, however, has fucceeded. ʒj vel ʒij, every other night, is fufficient of the unguent. hydrarg. fort.

XXII. Bleeding, a purge firft, and warm baths, are neceffary, not only before, but occasionally during frictions; for by exciting free perfpiration and cleaning the furface of the body, falivation is greatly impeded, and the cure facilitated, by the operation of mercury through the minuteft cellular ftructures, exhalent arteries, minuteft lymphatics, or abforbents, &c.; for, as *Hippocrates* juftly fays, and *Abraham Kaaw* proves, ὡς ἔκπνοον καὶ ἑσπνοον ἔλον τό σῶμα. QUOD EXPIRANS, ET INSPIRANS, UNIVER-SUM CORPUS.

XXIII. Warmth is abfolutely neceffary to promote a cure; the room fhould be large and airy, with a fire in cool weather; and, if in an hospital, few fhould be in the fame ward.

XXIV. As mercury increafes excretion through the fkin, cold is inimical, checks the neceffary mild perfpiration, and occasions diforders in the head. Calico under-fhirts in fummer, and flannel or Jerfey fhirts, fhould be worn in winter, during a mercurial courfe, left fudden chills or cold retard the operation of medicine. Patients fhould be confined to a room, particularly the refractory, young, and inconfiderate; or the ufe of frictions for extinguifhing the virus will be defeated. In hospital practice, likewise, it is abfolutely neceffary to confine patients; left irregularities and expofure to cold counteract all curative intentions.

XXV. The moderate ufe of guaiacum and faffafras, in pallid languid habits, and the farfaparilla, in decoctions, for the florid and plethoric, may affift the extinction of the difeafe, when attempted by friction. They may be ufed with or without milk, as ordinary drink, with a little liquorice-root boiled, to make them more grateful. Thefe decoctions of woods, as they are called, united with the folutio mercurialis antimonialis,

or *lotio penetrans*, in small doses, already recommended, will cure many venereal symptoms; but in important cases frictions should be added, or permanency of cure may not always be expected.

XXVI. When the mercurial *halitus* is perceived issuing from the mouths of the frictioned, by the olfactory organs of the practitioner, the body at that time is saturated, and frictions should then be omitted two or three days or more, and a laxative given. It is necessary, therefore, for the practitioner to daily visit the patient, and to be very vigilant, lest a strong salivation be excited; which will happen in some instances notwithstanding the greatest circumspection.

XXVII. If the head and face be very much swelled and painful, with inflammation of the eyes, or a fever should arise; bleeding, aperients, and saline remedies, are proper, as likewise in spitting of blood, &c. unless there be a putrid-tending diathesis; then antiseptics and tonics are to be prescribed. In spasms, opiates or narcotics should be cautiously given, as they sometimes prove hurtful and occasion delirium, &c.

XXVIII. Frictions should be continued until the chief symptoms be removed, and some time afterwards. Ulcers and caries of the bones continue longer than the use of mercury is necessary; but a proper healthy discharge from them should direct the practitioner, when to leave off the frictions, and they should be discontinued, not suddenly, but gradually.

XXIX. The sudden disappearance of ulcers and other symptoms is sometimes very deceitful; for if the remedies were then discontinued, the disease will soon reappear.

XXX. Mercury continues to act on the system even some months after the discontinuance of the frictions: its administration, therefore, is not to be carried too far. Upon an average, two or three ounces of the strong ointment is sufficient for the generality of cases; but this must always be determined by circumstances: deviations in the times of friction and kind of diet must be made, according to the habit of the patient.

XXXI. When the lues venerea be combined with sea scurvy, the latter should be first removed, before the commencement of the course, or very light antivenereal alteratives used. Frictions are not so proper in these cases as alteratives.

XXXII. The phthisis venerea, or venereal consumption, is to be treated with antivenereals; but extreme caution is necessary not to push the use of mercury too far. Plenck's solution is proper.

ON THE CURE BY FUMIGATIONS.

XXXIII. The method of curing venereal affections by cinnabarine fumigations is almost as ancient as the disease, and was known by Fallopius and Massa, who were its principal advocates: it has great power in re-
moving

moving or changing the state of venereal and cancerous ulcers; but cannot be depended on to confirm the cure of venereal affections, though an excellent auxiliary in various cases; but not now sufficiently in use.

XXXIV. Mr. Lalouëtte has revived the practice, by avoiding some of the inconveniencies that rendered fumigation hazardous and disagreeable, from its suffocating sulphureous fumes, &c. affecting the lungs, by the preparation he uses, &c.

LOTIONS.

XXXV. The lotions formerly used in the cure of lues venerea were dangerous; being composed of *corrosive sublimate* and *arsenic*: they occasioned dreadful cutaneous diseases, and even salivation; they therefore fell into disuse.

XXXVI. Baths, peniluvia, and pediluvia, of well-prepared corrosive sublimate, in the quantity of four grains to a quart of water, are very useful for diseased joints, nodes, tophs, and various lymphatic and other indurations, or as fomentations, &c. in various venereal affections; or as lotions for detaching venereal or other ulcers. Lotions likewise of the *hydrargyrus gummosus* are proper for peniluvia, pediluvia, &c. in delicate constitutions.

PLASTERS.

XXXVII. Plasters of mercury, with proper compositions, as a cure, have been long abandoned, from their very limited powers: they are used now only to indurated glands, &c. &c.

MERCURIUS GUMMOSUS.

XXXVIII. This invention of uniting *argentum vivum* with gum arabic was discovered and practised by that very learned physician PLENCK, of Vienna. It cured the lues venerea, in numerous instances, in that country; but in the confirmed lues, in this island, it has not been permanently successful; but this may be attributed more to carelessness in preparing the remedy than any other cause. I have succeeded in curing numerous venereal affections, in delicate constitutions, by this method; but in order to augment its powers, one eighth or sixth of a grain of *antimonium tartarizatum* (tart. emet.) gives a powerful energy to each dose. These combinations, however, have salivated, and require the same vigilance as frictions; for this *hydrargyrus gummosus* may be aptly termed an internal friction. It requires very accurate trituration, or the globules of the *argentum vivum* will not be perfectly extinguished*.

* M. De Horn says, the composition does not equal the author's commendations. M. Castel made an improvement on the method by dividing the mercury in mucilage of gum arabic; and drying the mass, reduced it into powder.

XXXIX. These preparations will perfectly cure primary affections; but in very inveterate and chronic cases, they fail in this changeable, cold climate; it is but justice, however, to the celebrated inventor, to say, that they are an additional and useful mild resource in venereal cases of delicate constitutions, women, and children, and in all cases wherein the compositions of mercury with the mineral acids are too violent.

KEYSER'S PILLS.

XL. The *dragées* of Keyser have been fairly tried for several years, both in Paris, London, and in different parts of Europe; but though in many cases they cured, yet in others, to my own knowledge, they produced dangerous effects, as salivation, purgings, relaxation of the solids, &c. In London, it was pretended that patients might pursue their ordinary business during their exhibition; and, I remember, the general rule recommended by Dr. Cooper, of John Street, was, to take a sufficient quantity to prove daily laxative, by which means nutrition was impeded, and debility promoted, and the ends of cure, in inveterate cases, prevented. This is similar to *hydrargyrus acetatus*.

XLI. The author seemed totally ignorant of chemistry, and described several processes, unnecessarily tedious, to purify mercury, which may be effected with much less trouble *.

PRESSAVIN'S MERCURIAL SALT.

XLII. The vegetable mercurial salt of M. Pressavin is similar to Keyser's, except its combination with cremor tartar. and its being given in solution. The pilular form is very improper in *active solutions* of mercury, since, as hath been observed, their caustical effects are likely to injure the stomach; but the solution of Pressavin is far superior, by being diluted so as to avoid all such danger.

XLIII. The solution of mercury in vinegar is no new discovery, and may be found in *Theatrum Chemicum*, page 654, printed at Strasbourg, 1613. It is no uncommon thing for artifice or ignorance to introduce remedies as new, which have been long obsolete or in disuse. The nitric acid trick will, perhaps, prove of this nature.

XLIV. KEYSER'S pills, and many other such mysterious, questionable compositions, which have great reputation while they are puffed off as secrets, at an immense expense, in newspapers, lose all their miraculous value when once known. All the advantages of such compositions

* Upon a review of his unscientific formula, the composition is as follows: "Du mercure révisifié, ensuite calciné, puis dissous par le vinagre, et mêlé avec la manne et la farine, pour donner la consistance requise à cette composition."—*Colombier*.

can be acquired without any hazard, by various other remedies, gentle frictions, &c. &c.

ON THE SYROP DE BELLET.

XLV. This syrup, when I was in France, many years ago, was a secret, in the hands of the author and government only. The basis, from the most accurate analysis, proved to be either pure MERCURY dissolved in the NITROUS ACID, to which is added spt. vini, or some precipitate of mercury dissolved in spt. nitri dulcis. A certain quantity of this solution is mixed with some syrup, and, when made, a table-spoonful, diluted in water, is to be taken every morning for a week; afterwards, the same quantity morning and evening, gradually increasing the dose to two table-spoonfuls, and rarely beyond, diluting it with water in proportion to the dose. Its administration was continued a fortnight after the symptoms were removed, and a purge was given at intervals.

XLVI. It was tried on several patients in the hospitals of *Brest* and *Toulon*, as the *nitric acid* has been at our naval hospitals, &c. It generally caused more or less pain in the head, sometimes uneasiness in the stomach, and purging: out of twenty patients, fifteen were apparently cured, three left the hospital, one went away not cured, one degenerated into cancer, and two died. It has since been used with various success, by persons who are no great friends to secrets.

ANTIVENEREAL CLYSTERS.

XLVII. Antivenereal clysters were invented by M. Royer, surgeon major of the camps and armies. The analysis made by M. de Horne, proves its basis to be *corrosive sublimate*, united with camphor, mucilage, and water.

OBJECTIONS.

1. Patients discharge clysters too soon for a sufficient absorption of mercury to cure lues venerea.
2. The quantity absorbed cannot be determined; hence arises uncertainty and a tedious method of cure.

OCCASIONAL UTILITY.

Mercurial clysters may be sometimes useful, where patients cannot bear medicines on the stomach; but PLENCK's solutions, for these purposes, are much safer than mercury sublimate. Like other remedies, they should not be used indiscriminately on every patient, since a variety of methods is necessary to cure different patients, and no one plan will cure all, however well contrived.

ON CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE, OR HYDRARGYRUS MURIATUS.

XLVIII. This excellent remedy, when *accurately prepared*, and *judiciously administered in solution*, in doses, never to exceed the *sixteenth, twelfth, or eighth* of a grain, is the most efficacious, safe, and successful mercurial yet discovered, for speedily removing the most pressing and distressful symptoms. When joined with antimonium tartarifatum (tart. emeticum) and camphor, it is rendered still more penetrating, useful, and gently diaphoretic. I have cured many hundreds of various cases by these remedies joined with fumigations; they even subdue cancers, &c.

XLIX. BOERHAAVE first, and VAN SWIETEN afterwards, recommended this mercurial salt internally; it had been prescribed a long time before that period for external use *.

L. On its first introduction, as all solutions of mercury in mineral acid were esteemed violently poisonous, various attempts were made to destroy its corrosive qualities, by uniting alkaline solutions, spirituous and oleaginous fluids, &c. Alkaline additions, however, only decomposed the mercury; a precipitate subsided, more or less active; and the remaining fluid consequently lost its antivenereal properties. Crude sal ammoniac does not add to the efficacy of the medicine, as some have imagined.

LI. The perfect solution of corrosive sublimate, gr. xij to a pint of malt spirit, was made and recommended by Van Swieten, of which a table-spoonful was prescribed, in barley water, morning and evening, increasing the dose gradually, according to circumstances. This was given with great success, in thousands of cases, in many parts of Europe, and I gave it at Belleisle in 1761; but the spirituous medium, though it agreed well with robust soldiers and sailors, yet was injurious to particular constitutions, and occasioned violent nausea, vomitings, and sometimes diarrhæa, dysentery, &c. like turbith mineral, &c.

* Amongst others, the celebrated and learned *De Haen*, of Vienna, says, that he cured the lues venerea, in the most desperate cases, of most parts, by sublimate. He dissolved six grains of mercurius corrosivus in a pint of brandy, and gave two table-spoonfuls morning and evening, &c. He proceeds: "Imo diuturnus usus hujus remedii percuravit corneam ex causa venerea ortam; sic anchyloses, illinc paralyfes, variique tumores et ulcera hoc modo curabantur." Every fourth day he gave a purge. It is certain the Germans, and other people on the continent, bear larger doses than can be given here. I have seldom ventured on more than the eighth of a grain as a dose, and in very few instances, and where the stomach could bear it, above a quarter of a grain, and always dissolved and diluted. I have cured, as may be seen in the Treatise on Diseases of the Eyes, many cases of opaque cornea; by its internal and external use; but I never gave it in paralytic cases; but have cured numbers by pilulæ alterantes mitiores, which plan is similar, but not so powerful. See *palsy* in Rational Practice.

LII. Four grains of the corrosive sublimate, perfectly dissolved, by rubbing in a glass mortar and pestle, in a pint of rain, river, or distilled water, or camphor julep, and given in the dose of ʒss exactly, three times a day, diluted in saffraas tea, decoction of the woods, or sarsaparilla, could be taken without inconvenience. This is but an eighth of a grain of the remedy; but half that quantity is sufficient for delicate constitutions. This has been my method of giving it, ever since that period; for I early discovered the error of the celebrated and learned Van Swieten, and others, consisted in giving the remedy in much too large doses, which often acted violently on the stomach or intestines, without affecting the constitutional complaint. In this manner one of the most efficacious preparations, in some degree, lost its credit with regular practitioners; but empirics, by their very small doses, have cured, under the form of a secret syrup, many cases in which the learned regulars have failed.

LIII. It, thus administered, resolves buboes, relieves phymosis, paraphymosis, deterges and cures chancres, venereal ulcers of the urethra, prostate, &c.; soon relieves the most excruciating nocturnal pains in the bones, &c.; yet notwithstanding its excellence and efficacy, it should not be depended on in deep-seated chronic venereal affections, without the addition of judicious frictions.

LIV. Little preparation is necessary before taking it; bleeding in plethora, and cleansing the *primæ viæ*, are previously useful; but the remedies should be continued a considerable time after the symptoms have disappeared; for though its salutary effects are rapid, they have not been, in some instances, permanent.

LV. During the exhibition of corrosive sublimate, whether joined with antimonium tartarizatum, or not (which last mode is my invention), it is necessary to observe a strict regimen; the drink should be chiefly farinaceous or mucilaginous, decoction of sarsaparilla, &c. Neither wine, spirits, nor beers should be drunk, nor any thing used that may counteract or decompose the preparation: therefore, all volatiles and alkalies are improper, &c. This mode of curing several cases of venereal infection, is superior to any, if the patient be obliged to be exposed to the open atmosphere; but warm clothing is always necessary, dry diet, &c.

In the French armies, for many years, this remedy has been given with extraordinary success; but the physicians commonly have ordered too large doses, or their climate is certainly more benign and salutary than this changeable, and often suddenly cold island. In the West Indies, and on the continent of America, in France, Italy, and Germany, I have seen numerous cases cured; and from the authority of M. Bercher, first physician of the hospital at Cologne, and of many of the most excellent practitioners in

Europe, it may be recommended, with the cautions and observations already enumerated *. It is a medicine that should only be used by the skilful in the art; for it should be remembered, an over-dose, as in other important medicines, may prove fatal †.

ON SECRET REMEDIES.

LVI. Every pretender to secret remedies, or nostrums, says his composition differs from others, and is the very best in the world.

LVII. Much mischief is done by quack remedies from their indiscriminate use. If they be powerful, they often do irreparable evil; if inefficacious, they can do no service. It is much to be regretted, that even some regular-bred practitioners have disguised mercury in various forms, and have become secret-mongers.

LVIII. The pretensions of M. Nicole and Velnos, in asserting their preparations contain no particles of mercury, ought not to be credited; an analysis, made by M. Marges, surgeon, of the medicines of the former, detected corrosive sublimate in the composition of the liquor, diet-drink, biscuit, and ointment of Nicole.

LIX. Agironi and Velnos pretended they had a vegetable syrup, by which they proposed to cure the venereal disease.

LX. They produced a number of proofs of its efficacy in curing private patients; but the trials made in the hospital of French guards, it seems, were less favourable, according to *Colombier*.

LXI. The mercury that enters the composition, says the erudite *Colombier*, is very small in quantity, and not easily detected. If three or four grains of corrosive sublimate, in a quart of syrup, were combined, the medicine would be very efficacious, and the mercury would not be easily discoverable.

LXII. The comparative good success of the syrup, in their own practice, exclusively, renders it more than probable, that they had some secret mode of adding the mercury. For, if the most active roots and woods, or vegetables, are insufficient to cure the lues venerea, which the

* The learned author of *La Medecine Militaire*, M. *Colombier*, mentions nine hundred cases cured, that came under his own observation, in the French military hospitals: many thousands of instances beside have made their appearance in favour of this medicine, when judiciously prepared and applied.

† I have given a case in the *Rational Practice of Physic*, where a young medical gentleman at Mr. Scarman's, then living in Bond Street, took two drams of corrosive sublimate, in its saline granulated form, and four ounces of laudanum. I saved his life by giving volatile alkali diluted in warm water, which, forming a precipitate, produced enormous vomitings, &c. and thus liberated him from the danger of the active poison,

fairest trials have proved beyond the possibility of a doubt, it follows, that a mercurial salt, as sublimate, or a solution of *argentum vivum* in nitrous acid, must be added. With regard to Velnos' syrup, there have been instances of its salivating, and, at the time I am writing this, a patient is under the care of Dr. Kennedy and myself, who has been decidedly salivated by the composition, without obtaining a cure; though now, by our joint endeavours, recovering from one of the most complicated and difficult cases that ever happened. *MUNDUS VULT DECIPI, ERGO DECIPIATUR*, say the artful promulgators of wonder-working secrets. Mankind admire the marvellous and impossible; and while persons of the highest rank, dukes, lords, and titled ladies, whose education should elevate their minds above vulgar deceptions, or gross superstition, will countenance magnetism, pretended inspirations, windy puff nonsense, and a thousand other rogueries and fooleries; it is not surprising that inferior beings, of little learning and less sense, should become the most egregious dupes to every species of artful imposture and impostors *.

NITROUS ACID.

LXIII. A miraculous discovery has lately led the medical dance through all the mazes of folly, perplexity, and credulity. *Nitrous acid* cures venereal complaints of all descriptions; thousands of cases are monthly published, and as many thousands of fabricated falsehoods believed by the credulous, and trumpeted forth through all the earth. Like the wonder-working syrup-mongers and drop-venders, the nitric acid fails under the direction of men the most eminent for skill and probity, and in all other hands except those in the secret. This, alone, is a true and convincing proof of the efficacy and veracity of the powers of *nitric acid*. There can be no doubt they use nitrous acid; but, probably owing to some little omission, they may have forgotten to apprize their acid-struck, astonished, and mortified brethren, that a little *argentum vivum* was dissolved in that very powerful acid, by which, indeed, properly diluted, it becomes a very important medicine in the hands of skilful adepts. These are not uncommon frolics amongst several famous chemists and alchemists; there are many specimens of a variety of similar tricks on record in the annals of secret chemistry †.

LXIV.

* I remember a late learned and pious prelate, who, though remarkably sensible in other respects, was so infatuated in favour of a quack syrup, that he ran full gallop through this great town to recommend the surprising all-curing syrup; in short, the worthy dignified divine was syrup mad, and died suddenly; whether from the effects of the syrup, which, some said, struck in a cutaneous eruption, or not, is not altogether certain.

† The ingenious Mr. Blair, surgeon to the Lock Hospital, who has the most
decided

LXIV. Let not the faculty nor society be any longer deluded by the performers of *miracles* in venereal complaints *without mercury*. Thousands of lives have been sacrificed at the shrine of credulity, thousands more by the indiscriminate use of quack remedies, and pretended panaceas. Let it not be said, in the beginning of 1800, that mankind, after having been so repeatedly deluded, will suffer delusion, artifice, and deception, to continue their daring violations of honour, truth, and integrity.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF PHYSIC EQUALLY NECESSARY AS SURGERY, IN THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL AFFECTIONS.

IF a survey be taken of all the preceding venereal symptoms, of different ages, sexes, constitutions, circumstances, and necessary remedies, it must evidently appear, to every reflecting and candid mind, that a *complete knowledge in the art of physic is as necessary as surgery*, to combat, with spirited energy, the variety of cases that occur in an extensive venereal practice. It is the province of physic to prescribe internal medicine, and of surgery to perform manual operations; but both branches are so intimately connected in the treatment of venereal complaints, that they cannot be separated without manifest injury to society*. How can
any

decided opportunities of ascertaining the real effects of antivenereal remedies, has not only tried the plan under his own immediate direction, but has endeavoured, with a laudable love of truth, to collect from all quarters as many facts as possible on the subject. Several of the first surgeons in this metropolis, and many of my most intimate friends, have tried the nitric acid; but with what effect Mr. Blair's work fully and candidly declares, where nothing but disappointment stalks in every page. At the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary the remedy was tried, not from any expectation of success on my part; for it will be well remembered by the gentlemen of the Hospital, that I foretold, in a peremptory manner, that it was impossible to cure venereal cases by nitrous acid; but rather than appear obstinate, I complied with the request for trial. Seven cases went under the course without any success, who were soon after cured under the care of Mr. Phillips, the surgeon, by frictions. We had, as many others have, of the most respectable of the faculty, to regret, that we lost time in this bubble, and prolonged the misery of the afflicted patients, almost to death, in an irrational mischievous project.

* The prescriber, who well comprehends the materia medica, chemistry, and pharmacy, who can discover the adulteration of medicines, and who has been practically accustomed to compound and observe the effects of different

any person not well acquainted with chemistry, pharmacy, and the theory and practice of physic, discriminate with accuracy, and prescribe different compositions judiciously, according to the most skilful rules of medical science? How will a surgeon, however excellent in the operative part of the profession, be enabled to skilfully treat all the difficult cases of venereal inflammations, fevers, gangrenous affections, women during pregnancy, infants, the old and feeble, the young and robust, the delicate, nervous, and irritable, with all their innumerable varieties; if he do not well know the most efficacious management of all those cases uncombined with venereal virus? If he know not how skilfully to treat these cases simply, and this is no trifling knowledge, how will he be able to attack them with science and success, when complicated with that devastating disease, the venereal virus? Yet such extensive knowledge, if not always, is frequently necessary; or mankind must suffer for the defects of the artist: it is, therefore, ardently recommended to young students not to be satisfied with partial skill, but industriously endeavour to acquire general science. To attain great excellence in any branch of physic is highly commendable; but it is possible to be the greatest anatomist, or the most celebrated operating surgeon in Europe, without being well informed in the science and practice of physic*; and,

ferent doses of medicaments, and particularly those powerful weapons mercury and antimony, will always be better able to prescribe, than he who depends on the prescriptions of others, or of those books in general, that give directions about doses and compounding medicines, where will be found, in too many instances, gross errors, and several incautious forms of prescription: this will evidently appear hereafter. The best formula of medicines that can be suggested should only be taken as specimens, in general; the practical and individual application, in diseases, must always be formed from the particular circumstances of every case that offers, and must be left to the sagacity of every prescriber.

* Those who are unacquainted with my sentiments on the necessity and utility of anatomy, in producing excellent surgeons and physicians for the army, navy, and country, may read the tract I wrote, and sent to every noble and honourable member of Lords and Commons, to prevent ignorance being established by the laws of the land, when the dead body bill was agitated. That work has been since published at the end of my Treatise on Dropsies; and on preventing or retarding many Affections common to old Age. My *Schola Medicinæ* was written to facilitate that and other essential studies.

on the contrary, a physician may have passed through all the general forms of study, be decorated with a doctor's degree, and yet be deficient in most things relative to surgery, and, in particular, the treatment of venereal affections. There are some surgeons who affect to slight or despise the theory and practice of physic; and there are a few physicians, who pretend, that it is beneath the dignity of diplomatic doctors to study that most useful of all arts, surgery. Both these opinions are erroneous and injurious; unless it could be proved, that the less a practitioner knows, the more capable he is of curing the most difficult diseases. To render mankind those benefits, which humanity and the healing art demand, all the branches are not too much to study on many important occasions; and those who comprehend most, are more likely to succeed, than those who conceive little, or confine themselves to the narrow limits of some particular department: for, as the great medical and Roman classic, *Celsus*, says, *Id ante omnia scire convenit, quod omnes medicinæ partes connexæ sunt, ut ex toto separari non possint.*

To the honour of the profession in this country, there are excellent surgeons, who are competent to all the branches of medicine; and those, who are thus qualified, are most capable of practising with success, and pouring down benefits on society: but in proportion as young surgeons neglect medical studies, and afterwards prescribe internal treatment, with a few general remedies, at random, so will they proportionably fail of success, and bring disgrace to that divine art, which it is their duty to support with honour and dignity. It is highly laudable, therefore, to obtain the completest information possible, in every department; for, though it may be a rational custom to only pursue one, yet in the practical application of that one branch, all the others are frequently included*.

Medical

* In the third volume of *Schola Medicinæ*, comprehending the practice of the whole art, there is one chapter on liberal and extensive medical education, the outlines of which may be seen in the introductory part of the first volume of *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*; which, with the second, is already published in Latin. This third volume, if my life be spared, I intend translating into English, which, occupied as I am, will be no small labour; but will be more advantageous to the English reader, as Latin is gradually,

MEDICAL PRECEPTORS SHOULD ONLY TEACH AND INCULCATE DEMONSTRATIVE AND CONFIRMED TRUTHS, AND ALWAYS EXCLUDE HYPOTHESIS.

Ignorance, where learning and true science should predominate, is an enormous vice. He is superficial, designing, or ignorant,

gradually, it seems, going out of fashion. I have translated and lately published the references to the sixty-eight copper-plate engravings of the two former quarto volumes, which work was twenty-six years labour, for the sole advantage of the English students, to lay a solid foundation of anatomical, physiological, and pathological science, founded on demonstrative facts, and real dissections, &c. excluding all unproved assertions, opinions, false hypotheses, and idle chemical speculations. If medicine always spoke the language of strict truth, and if the extravagant effusions of wild conjecture were checked, violent disputation might be at an end, which oftener obscures than enlightens; sound principles and successful practice would be firmly established by accurate practical observation and experience.

When the friends of a student entering at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary inquire what books are necessary to be read, I always answer, Let him go into the dissecting-room, and learn the names and uses of all the parts of the human body; and into the pharmaceutic laboratory, and stop to comprehend the preparation and compounding of medicines. Let him read *actual diseases* at the *bed-sides* of the sick; let him read and retain the symptoms of the numerous patients in and out of the house, their varieties in the same disease, with the real effect of remedies on different constitutions, indications, contraindications, and the *rationale* drawn from the patients' particular habits, which renders it necessary to often change prescriptions to persons labouring under one and the same disease. Let him regard the general name of the disorders painted on the door of each ward, and the name, age, and disease of each individual written over the bed's head of each patient: thus are obtained the different species of disease. Let him enter into the *minutiae* of various ages, sexes, and circumstances of patients in the *acute febrile, chronic, pulmonic, small-pox, infantile, lying-in, and surgery wards*. Let him keep a book or diary, according to my plan, and write down every thing he sees, hears, or comprehends, worthy of notice; and let him register his own juvenile observations parallel to each individual case, either in surgery, physic, and even midwifery, if any case peculiar should arise. Let him open all subjects possible, as I have done through life, and investigate with his own eyes the ravages of disease and the causes that led to death. Let him peruse short elementary books, at the same time, such as my esteemed friend Dr. Hooper's little Medical Dictionary, and Anatomist's Vade Mecum, &c. After this foundation, let him read the most celebrated Greek, Latin, French, and Italian authors, with circumspection, where he will find a confirmation of sound practice and cautions, if he should select judiciously

ignorant, who, from a vain affectation of universal knowledge, teaches or credits hypothesis, and daringly applies it to medical practice. There is nearly as much difference between true theory and hypothesis, as between light and darkness. A true theory is a demonstrative proposition fully proved*; an hypothesis an unproved proposition, a probability, an opinion, error, falsehood. Are successful facts, confirmed by long experience, to be deserted, and the lives of human beings to be risked on probabilities, on the flights of imagination, on the mere creatures of a distempered, unreflecting brain? as the great reasoner, Celsus, says, *Cujus autem rei non est certa notitia, ejus opinio certam reperire remedium non potest. Verumque est ad ipsam curandi rationem nihil plus conferre, quam experientiam.*

judiciously and avoid errors. Let him ever disregard mere opinions and fanciful suggestions, and particularly all embarrassing questions, so common in the Scotch professor Cullen, and others, frequently on subjects above human comprehension, which, if he be penetrating, and his mind logically arranged, he will discern with a glance of the eye, and immediately check all imaginary conceits. With the previous practical studies recommended and diligently pursued (*nihil enim sine labore*, as Cicero says), he will become a young medical critic; be able to judge of beauties and defects, and not be easily deluded by quaint phraseology, fallacious reasoning, or distorted false conclusions from dubious premises: he will examine first principles; if these be false, the superstructure, however plausible, must be equally so. If he be honourable, he will not deceive others; if he be wise and reflecting, he will not suffer the plausible deceptions of others to deceive himself, or to bias his mind with hypothetical unstable prejudices; he will only be open to truth and conviction, and not, through idleness or want of penetration, swallow uncouth words for things; but strip off those veils of deception and expose their dangerous tendency. Such are the most probable means of arriving at a great degree of perfection in the art, especially if every day's cautious and reflecting study, through life, be an improvement on the former, and if every investigation be pursued with alacrity and ardour, devoid of bias or infatuation. Such an education and study, when guided by good sense, sound judgment, and long experience, will give a spirited practice tempered with caution, in all important and difficult cases of disease. See *Generalia* and *Specialia* of medical education in *Schola Medicinæ*, vol. i. p. 52, immediately after the History of Medicine, and Chronology, &c. and likewise, many similar sentiments in different parts of the *Rational Practice of Physic*, to guard the young and inexperienced from attempting deep investigation, before they have seen or comprehended the facts of this difficult and extensive art.

* Theorema est propositio vera et demonstrativa.

Whoever undertakes the important profession of teaching the practical art of physic, should well know its rise, progress, and present state, and should seriously guard the minds of his pupils against the intrusion of all conjectures, opinions, and hypotheses whatever. Had the framers of several recent and obscure hypothetical systems observed this moral and sensible rectitude, and had they not tainted the minds of their unsuspicious pupils, and inconsiderate followers, with many fallacious doctrines; we should not be pestered with the daily use of unintelligible phrases, pompous in sound, but empty in the requisites of truth. We should not have reason to deplore the many human sacrifices daily slaughtered at the altars of false conceit and vain-glorious speculation. Whilst many branches of the profession are proceeding to a greater degree of perfection; in the venereal disorder, chimerical opinions have exceeded all bounds in the regions of fancy, and they have produced all those miseries to society, that every man of learning, sound judgment, and experience, expected.

It is injurious even for individuals to imbibe dangerous prejudices; but the ill consequences then only affect a few patients, led by confidence and credulity into misfortune. When men high in reputation assume the instruction of others, and inculcate deleterious tenets in their lectures, the consequent miseries in different parts of the kingdom, and as far as the false doctrines extend, are beyond the reach of all human calculation.

It is with great concern and regret to be observed, that the learned university of Edinburgh, for many years, became the hot-bed of hypothesis, under the fostering hand of some of the professors. Though many ingenious men have appeared, and contributed much to the cultivation of medical science; yet the luxurious weeds of unbridled fancy have, in too many instances, overrun and obscured the fairest truths of the profession. The ardent minds of youth, by these means, have frequently taken a wrong turn, which the soberest judgment and reflection could scarcely eradicate through life. It requires the pruning-knife of experience and sound judgment to check the growth of these froward exotics; for, though they die in time a natural death from the mischiefs they produce; yet, while the rage of novelty may continue, they do abundance of evil. It is an arduous task to

develope, and requires courage to conquer prejudices; but it should be firmly attempted by every lover of truth and detector of false doctrines in the profession.

A GREAT DEFECT NOT TO KNOW THE BEST MODES OF PRACTICE.

It is a great mark of indolence, or ignorance, if fair and practical opportunities have offered, not to well know the most select, established, and successful rules of practice in the art of medicine; but when known, it argues the possession of a wavering unsteady mind, rashness, and presumption, to depart, on slight grounds, from the well-founded maxims resulting from ages of experience. Credulity is a strong mark of imbecility in the human mind, and a great vice in any medical character; but wantonly and irrationally to sport with the health and lives of human beings, on dubitable principles, is an abominable crime.

A KNOWLEDGE OF FORMER ERRORS MAY PREVENT FUTURE MISFORTUNES.

Whoever pretends to improve an art should previously comprehend the exact state of its perfection and imperfection. An extensive knowledge of all the rocks and quicksands, on which our ancestors have split or were shipwrecked, should warn us from present, impending, and future danger.

Many of the recent promulgators of novelties, in the venereal and other diseases, practise the reverse of this reasonable conduct. Could it be supposed, that many of the dangerous projects they have lately adopted, were tried a century or two ago, and banished through the mischiefs they produced? Could it be credited, that the same mischievous doctrines are revived now, and pretended to be new, entirely new modes of treatment? This, however, is certainly the fact. For men who understand not the learned languages, and of course cannot avail themselves of proper information on such important subjects, some apology might be invented; but even these have an opportunity to apply to many who possess erudition, and there is a liberality among the most learned in the profession, which is always ready to communicate freely, useful science to all who request assistance: It seems some of the
unlettered

unlettered never supposed any consultation with learning and experience necessary; for, they spurn from them the advice of experience and the warnings of threatening dangers. Many become confident and assuming, in proportion as they are superficial, or inexperienced. When they have adopted errors, however deleterious, they are too proud to acknowledge the evils their rashness has brought on society. Every *novus homo*, of enterprising spirit, thinks himself capable, not only of curing the venereal and all other diseases, without intense observation or experience; but boldly censures all deep learning, and would sacrilegiously pluck the well-earned wreaths of laurels that have adorned the learned brows of all our generous predecessors, and most illustrious professional benefactors. By the misrepresentation of the learning of preceding ages, many late professors and writers of ambiguous medical and chirurgical systems have raised themselves no small degree of temporary fame amongst young students; but it may be depended on, that most of the practical precepts of real utility are artfully borrowed from other authors; and the greater part of useless speculations, and tedious desultory discourses, riddles, and perplexing questions, are commonly of their own invention and composition. The truth being thus disguised, it would appear to the unlearned, that all our predecessors were idiots, and that the present race of bold adventurers and manufacturers of hypotheses and books had the exclusive right to superlative wisdom. Every thing becomes the object of jarring disputation: the most sacred and long-established facts are suspected and boldly contradicted. The most excellent remedies have been frequently excluded to give place to idle conjectures. Every thing in such hands, and amongst their uninformed followers, bears an equivocal, ambiguous, and questionable shape. The mild art, sacred to humanity, thus becomes the art, not of curing diseases, but of furious altercation. Men become sophistical orators instead of skilful physicians; mighty and tremendous in words, but vacuous and deficient in curing diseases. The credulous world is thus deluded.

True science in medicine can only be obtained by long application and good sense. A profound knowledge of practical medicine can only be acquired by accurate observation. It is absolutely
 necessary

necessary to attend and examine, many years, in large hospitals, as well as in private practice, the actual rise, progress, and termination of all diseases; to clearly comprehend, without any bias or prejudice in favour of any particular system, the mutual relations, indications, contraindications, arising from some peculiar circumstances or constitutions, with the comparative force of remedies, so as to apply judiciously each mode of cure to every individual case, climate, and existing circumstances that offer.

THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE OUGHT TO DIFFER IN
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

One practice in the venereal and other diseases may be excellent at Edinburgh, another in London, a third at Paris, a fourth at Turin, Florence, Rome, Venice, or Naples, a fifth at Vienna, Berlin, and Petersburg, and a sixth, quite different, in the East, West Indies, North and South America. A remedy that would nearly destroy a lively volatile Frenchman, would scarcely excite any visible sensation, or action, in the torpid athletic Dutchman, Flanderkin, German, or Russian*. The same holds good in practice amongst the different constitutions, daily to be met with in every country. Hence the great deliberation and circumspection necessary, in prescribing, so as to order remedies adequate to various habits, local circumstances, and cases. No medical systems ever devised by man, much less those of recent manufacture, are equal to these grand objects; they all fail in numerous instances; the good sense, discernment, and experience of the practitioner must supply the rest, or practical medicine would be very defective and unsuccessful. Long practical experience, or observations on the different parts of the habitable world, are the most certain means of eradicating local prejudices in the minds of all but the self-sufficient and infatuated. Different countries have different modes of curing diseases, and it is liberal to put a favourable construction on all methods guided by science and long experience, however they may differ from those to which we have

* Perhaps this is one of the reasons, that in Holland, even by Boerhaave, we see from twenty to thirty grains of calomel, with a strong aloetic, for one dose, to his sluggish countrymen: when the same dose, in other countries, would nearly prove destructive. It is found, that what cures in one country does not succeed in another, as corros. sublimat. &c.

been accustomed. We should never censure before we have seen. It is not narrow, but extensive knowledge that enables any man, however gifted in other respects, to successfully practise medicine: but the most studious and cultivated minds will always be superior to the self-conceited, dull, languid, or slothful.

MODERATE TALENTS EQUAL TO LIGHT TRIFLING CASES,
BUT NOT TO DIFFICULT.

In slight cases of the venereal or other diseases, any safe practice may succeed, however superficial, or inactive. Under such circumstances, men of very moderate talents and plausible manners may pass with the world for wonderful physicians, and acquire great fame from very little skill. In diseases of deep and difficult investigation, complex and dangerous cases, Herculean, penetrating talents, and profound science, to discover obscure causes, and active cause-removing remedies, are absolutely necessary to ensure success.

PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE NOT EQUAL TO THE GENERAL
PURPOSES OF MEDICINE.

To deeply comprehend causes and effects, and to conduct the sick from dangerous and alarming situations to perfect health, is frequently difficult to the most sagacious, learned, and experienced. The science adequate to such important purposes, is not to be acquired in botanical gardens, chemical laboratories, in the dissecting-rooms of the most able anatomists, by mere book reading, or plausible lectures; nor by the barbarous experiments of torturing living animals, so fashionable amongst some modern physiologists, who have drawn irrational conclusions from animals under the painful tortures of death. A man may have studied the whole animal kingdom, from the minutest insect to the hugest unwieldy elephant; he may have dissected, or examined with the microscope, the whole, and yet be a very indifferent surgeon, or physician, though he may pass, in the opinion of those who are no judges, for the very essence of medical and chirurgical erudition*.

* In proportion as a surgeon loses time in pursuits irrelative to the art, so must he be defective in practice. There is no time to worship strange gods.

MEN OF REAL LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE NOT LED ASTRAY
BY IDLE CONJECTURES.

Many extravagant novelties and bold hypothetical assertions, *sine veris probationibus*, resulting from partial cruel projects, or from irrelative inanimate substances, from doubtful chemical principles, &c. may surprise and delude the experimentors and their credulous superficial admirers; but the doctrines have little or no weight with the cool, logical investigators of truth. It is perceived by the discerning and experienced, that most of the sophistical forced conclusions from such incoherent premises, are absolutely fallacious, or at most very dubious, and, therefore, practically useless. Many extravagant conceits of this and a similar nature, have made their appearance in the *venereal disease*; but honourable and experienced practitioners, who know and practise their duty, are not to be led astray by shallow artifices. As long, however, as mankind and the unsuspicious part of the faculty of medicine will continue to give credit to the plausible pretensions, folly, and absurdity of the crafty or infatuated; so long will daring adventurers sprout up like mushrooms, and appear in every delusive form that finessè or wild fancy can suggest. It is the vicious faith and credulity of mankind that give rise to imposture and impostors.

IF FALSE OPINIONS WERE NOT APPLIED TO THE CURE OF
DISEASES, LITTLE MISCHIEFS WOULD ENSUE.

If the various and whimsical speculations so much in fashion in the venereal and other diseases, proceeded no farther than an inoffensive and curious inquiry, little mischief would accrue; but when imaginary conceits are laid as a foundation for overturning all the long experience and wisdom of ages, and the human species become the fatal victims to such inordinate self-importance and vanity, it is high time to check the destructive *mania*, by exposure, and to teach the projectors and the abettors of false and dangerous doctrines, the moral duties they owe to society as medical practitioners. The juvenile pupils should be seriously apprized of the alarming dangers surrounding them, in the seductive form of illuminated science. Every occult phenomenon in nature is not within the sphere of human comprehension, or of the most accurate experiments and the most rational inductions. Much ever has, and will remain unknown. To acquire all the truths

truths possible, is laudable; to attempt more is visionary, seductive, useless, and frequently mischievous, if applied to medical practice. Many of the latest schemes should awaken suspicion; suspicion, and unfortunate facts, should prevent future delusion.

TRUE SCIENCE IN MEDICINE INCLUDES THE MOST CULTIVATED, SAFE, AND SURE MODES OF CURING DISEASES.

What is the ultimate object of practical medicine, but the most successful mode of curing diseases? Does science promise or Society require more of the healing art? No, certainly not. Does not the most refined knowledge in medicine consist in well comprehending and ascertaining the comparative excellence and defects of different methods of treatment? Ought not the most successful modes to be adopted, that the longest experience and greatest number of facts have fully established? Can the short life of any one man, however gifted by nature, however industrious in the pursuits of these desirable objects, by his own single capacity and genius fulfil these difficult and important duties? Certainly not. The indefatigable labours, the reflections, the observations, and the acutest judgment of two thousand five hundred years, in general diseases, and above three centuries in the morbid affection now treated of, are scarcely sufficient for these salutary purposes. How then can persons of little experience and less reading be equal to the numerous difficulties with which medicine is frequently surrounded? May not even the most excellent rules and precepts, the art has yet attained, be misapplied through want of penetration and clear discernment in the prescriber? Certainly they may; but in such instances, not the art, but the artist, deserves censure*.

PRACTICAL MEDICINE ALWAYS TO BE APPLIED TO EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ACQUIRED ONLY BY LONG OBSERVATION WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

The practice of medicine can never be regular while human constitutions differ. The art must necessarily, in the venereal

* It is neither a sign of wisdom nor prudence for a surgeon to declare he never reads books nor studies authors; except as an excuse for his own ignorance of what has already been attempted with or without success.

and most other disorders, be accommodated to an endless variety of circumstances ; to well comprehend which, requires long practical experience, and the utmost exertions of sensible human intellects. In the variety of difficult and frequently complicated cases, with which medicine has to contend, vigilance and foresight, to avert and prevent future dangers, are not the least qualifications of a physician.

The difference of constitutions ; habits of life, both prior and present ; climate, ages, sexes, seasons of the year ; mental dispositions, whether acute and violent, placid or approaching to torpidity ; floridity, or pallidness ; corpulency, or slenderness ; all require the profound consideration and acute penetrating eye of physic. The just application of all these circumstances is the very soul of practical medicine, without all which, it is jejune and empirical, and must be frequently unsuccessful. In the treatment of venereal cases, a complete knowledge, as hath been observed, of practical medicine is as necessary, in many instances, as the greatest skill in surgery ; they must both often be united ; for the symptoms are frequently internal and external. It is impossible to comprehend these various objects, without intense and unwearied diligence, joined with numerous opportunities to observe practice, with a clear and unprejudiced judgment. The most brilliant faculties of man cannot obtain excellence in the healing art by any other means ; for all true and useful knowledge must be acquired by the most indefatigable industry. If mankind, deluded by false appearances, will be so superficial as to think otherwise, they will be punished, as they now are, in numerous instances of venereal infection, for their blind credulity in impossibilities, and their readiness to embrace all the wild incoherent projects, which only surprise to deceive.

All the advantages of reiterated long observation, all the discernment and skill of the most learned physicians and surgeons united, had been successfully applied to the treatment of the venereal disease. The modes of cure had arrived almost at the summit of perfection. The labours of the learned had showered down a profusion of comfort, and dispelled the miseries of the truly afflicted. The benign hand of salutary aid was held forth with joy and exultation on the certainty of conquering, in general, that baneful disturber of human delight. Men are never satisfied

with

with what they possess: they often lose the sensible substance in pursuit of a visionary shadow. In the venereal disease, these facts, with great regret it is pronounced, have been singularly exemplified lately, as will amply appear in the sequel.

ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS AND CAUSTICATED BOUGIES, SO DESTRUCTIVE IN THEIR PRESENT CONSEQUENCES, NO NEW INVENTION.

Astringent injections for hastily stopping the running of the *urethritis venerea*, and bougies, armed with caustics, to remove urethral contractions, are no new inventions*. They have been repeatedly introduced by enterprising, unfeeling practitioners, and as repeatedly opposed and banished by the judicious and humane, from the dreadful calamities they occasioned.

Astringent injections, producing urethral strictures, and causticated bougies, to burn a passage through the obstructed urethra, thus created by astringents, are now revived with such furious zeal, that unless their former and present mischievous consequences be exposed by irrefutable facts, the miseries attending the present and rising generation will be incalculable.

The astringent injections and caustic bougies are blended together; for, if the former were *never applied*, the causes that have given rise to the latter cruel expedient would never, or very rarely occur: this, an experience of above forty years hath fully confirmed, exclusive of the joint testimony of the most learned and skilful physicians and surgeons in Europe.

ON THE APPLICATION OF ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS IN THE SEDUCING FORM OF PROMPT AND SALUTARY ASSISTANCE.

It must be a great pleasure to inquisitive minds to be informed of what our ancestors have said, concerning the use of *astringent injections*; for they have been severely censured by the most learned, ingenious, and experienced ornaments of the medical profession. If the practisers of that *hasty* method of *suppressing venereal running* had been well informed of the consequences; they certain-

* It will appear they have been used by inconsiderate and rash practitioners for above two hundred years, particularly astringent injections; but have always been reprobated by the most learned, experienced, and humane.

ly would have been deterred from the indiscriminate use of vitriolic and saturnine preparations. A dread of the consequences to suffering patients, a regard for their own reputation and the honour of the healing art, might have induced the injectors to have listened with attention to the voice of reason and superior experience; but it seems they have never perused or regarded the dreadful miseries these fatal errors have produced; for, if they had, they would have acted with more prudence and caution. The objections and observations of the most sagacious and learned practitioners shall now be produced; they may induce young practitioners, untainted with injection prejudices, to avoid the destructive practice as they would a pestilence, and they may urge mankind to fly from the *stricture-causing syringe*, as they would from a deadly poison. He is truly wise who benefits by the misdeeds and misfortunes of others.

1. FERNELIUS, the greatest ornament of the age in which he lived, was chief physician to Henry II. King of France, and one of the first after *Jaques de Bethencourt*, 1527, and *Brassevolus*, 1553, who mentions the *gonorrhœa* as a venereal symptom, says, "The running being irrationally suppressed; for the most part, internally, are formed *abscesses*, about the *testicles*, *epididymis*, and *perinæum*, which breaking, or being opened, *matter flows*.—A long-continued ulcer of the penis scarcely ever is curable, and, being neglected, fleshy *tubercles* and *excrescences* shoot forth, or harden into *callosities*, and form, not in one place only, a *meatus*, but two, and frequently three openings." From this excellent and learned writer it appears, that the virulent *gonorrhœa*, or venereal running, no sooner appeared, or was known in the world, than some rash artists endeavoured to suppress it, at the hazard, as now, of all the dreadful consequences enumerated.

2. JULIUS CÆSAR BENEDICTUS expresses his horror at the use of astringents, as the matter of a running should be considered *expelling* the disease; which *astringents* prevent, and repel the matter to the more noble parts. *Ab usu adstringentium horreo cum obstructions prohibeant gonorrhœam, nec minus adstringerem, ne retenta materia ad partes nobiliores revellatur, &c.*

3. JONSTONUS observes, that *suppressing* a *gonorrhœa* is productive of abscesses about the genital parts; and advises, that *astringents* should be avoided, lest, by retaining the *matter* that should be *discharged*, the parts should be eroded, &c.

4. SYDENHAM, the great Sydenham, one of the brightest ornaments of this country, says, "I am also well aware how much some practitioners

boast of curing this disease in a *shorter time*, by remedies which bear a great name; but I have found, by repeated observation, that the *matter* which should have been *expelled*, being detained in the body by *astringents*, has proved highly detrimental to the patient, by frequently returning into the blood, and at length causing the pox; nor is the decoction of the woods more effectual, though it be safer; for under a pretence of exhibiting specifics, the whole body, but especially the parts affected, already overheated, are still more inflamed; and sometimes, as I have already observed, I have known the gonorrhœa *return*, which vanished a little time before."

5. WISEMAN, surgeon to King Charles, and one of the greatest practitioners and writers of his age, mentions swelled testicle and abscess in perinæo to arise from *astringent injections*, and many difficulties of making urine in old age, from repeated gonorrhœa.

6. RIVÉRIUS, the Sydenham of France, says, "De Ischuria et Stranguria," amongst the causes, "Si caruncula urinæ commeatum impediat, præcessi gonorrhœa virulenta, aut ulcus in meatu virgæ, longo tempore materiam purulentam emittens.

"Sic in gonorrhœa, quamdiu adest parastatum inflammatio, ardor urinæ, continuo percipitur."—He advises candelulæ in the cure.

7. NENTER—"When the venereal flux or running is irrationally suppressed by medicaments, buboes, swelled testicles, and many of the very worst symptoms, are the consequence.

"*Astringents*, thrown up the urethra by a syringe, are the causes of caruncles in the passage. Sometimes they give rise to confirmed poxes. *Eadem adstringentia per syringam in urethram injecta sæpissimè caruncularum autores sunt.* More and certain mischief is to be expected from *astringents* exhibited, for which reason they should be seriously avoided, while acrimony of urine and other symptoms afflict the patient."

8. PITCAIRN was so well convinced of the danger of suppressing a running, even after the disease had been conquered, that he condemns even the use of *astringent pills*: *Cavete autem semper*, says that experienced and learned author, *ab istis pilulis adstringentibus. Hæ sæpissimè enim gonorrhæam mutarunt in lucem veneream*: for they often change a gonorrhœa into a confirmed pox.

9. FREIND, the learned author of the History of Physic, and one of the most sensible men of his time, mentioning the presumptuous ignorance of some anatomists, says, "For the more modern anatomists seem to be of a much lower character; and though they have been exact enough in the dissecting part, yet, without any regard to nature or right philosophy, are for advancing every *trifling discovery* into an *hypothesis*. The greatest part of this sort of writers have been like some workers in mechanics, who understand

understand the figure and position of every wheel and spring of the machine, but are ignorant of the true reason of its movements."—*Freind's History of Physic*, vol. ii. pages 386 and 397.

10. SHAW, physician at the British court, says, "The flux being stopped suddenly, whilst the matter is corrosive, whether by a fever, callosity of the parts, or the use of astringents, will occasion the lues venerea.

"An inflammation and tumefaction of the testes may arise in a gonorrhœa, either from the natural weakness of the vessels, violent motion, the *unseasonable use of astringents*, a neglect of purgation, or by any other means, whereby the *corrosive matter* is detained, or falls, with the blood, into them."—*Shaw's Practice in Venereal Disorders*, vol. i.

11. HOFFMAN, that very learned professor and experienced physician, says, "If a proper mode of curing the gonorrhœa be rightly instituted, the disorder is easily cured; but if badly managed, as very often happens from the perverse method of *quack surgeons*, applying their *astringents*, then with great labour and difficulty it is removed, &c.

"If the gonorrhœa should be treated with *astringents* before proper evacuations and depurators of the blood be prescribed, the *vitiated matter* will be *retained*, from whence *fomes* of new evils perpetually remain in the constitutions."

The same excellent and experienced author affirms, that lesions of the bladder, and even of the kidneys, occasioning a copious purulent sediment in the urine, happen, unless the *miasma venereum* be timely averted, &c.

He likewise gives a shocking case of the gonorrhœa being treated with *saturnine* preparations, as *tinctura antiphthifica grammari*, &c. in order to stop the *profluvium*, or running, &c.

12. DR. ROBINSON, who wrote expressly on the venereal disease, says, "And this caution I the more readily give, because I know some *ignorant fellows* are so bold as even to administer their *specific injections* under these virulent circumstances, and solely rely upon their operation for a perfect cure; but I think these remedies can scarce be used with safety in the first stage of this disease, nor is it possible they can have any good effects in the second, unless due cleansing and purging has preceded: but in the third they must frequently be attended with terrible consequences, especially if they are used before the venereal poison is corrected, and carried off by proper purges and alteratives; for the pocky virus, in this stage, is so malignant, that the least unseasonable step assuredly lays the foundation of a real pox.

"And to make the point a little more clear, we frequently observe, that whenever the running is unseasonably restrained, or the virulent matter blocked up, before the infection is totally carried off by medicines, that

that cleanse the parts, and evacuate the poison; a real pox will certainly be produced, with all its calamitous attendants and miserable effects.”—*Dr. Robinson on the Venereal Disease, cap. iv.*

“ But when the flux of matter, that ought to flow by the urinary passage, is restrained or blocked up, either from the virulency of the infection, the unseasonable use of *astringents*, or the improper application of *styptic injections*; then the third and last stage of this disease is introduced, which is indeed but *one remove* from the pox itself. Nay, sometimes if the running by the urethra does not return again, it slides into the most malignant degree of that distracting malady, often generating hollow *sinuous ulcers*, that eat into the *scrotum*, *perinæum*, and *intestinum rectum*; which, in process of time, turn *fistulous*, and discharge a very virulent sanies, or corrupted pus; and which sends out a most abominable stench.”

13. HEISTER, the very experienced army physician, author of the most excellent Compendium of Anatomy, and the greatest System of Surgery ever produced, in his medical, chirurgical, and anatomical observations, mentions swelled testicles to arise in consequence of surgeons having stopped runnings in the virulent gonorrhœa.

14. ASTRUC observes, “ That swelled testicles and buboes are caused by suppressed gonorrhœa; and inflammation, abscess, and fistula of the perinæum arise, *si l'on arrête l'écoulement virulent, par usage imprudent d'injections astringentes.*” He proceeds, and says in another place, “ The imprudent use of *astringent injections* to the urethra of the men, and the vagina of women, with *la pierre medicamenteuse de Crollius*, colcothar, the powder of Verney, and with other similar *styptic powders*, *vitriolic* or *aluminous*, &c. which too frequently occasion those accidents that follow a gonorrhœa, as strangury, &c. by *contracting* and closing the urethra, or cause the *lues venerea*, as often as the least particles of *virus* remain.”

He adds, “ that the imprudent use of *astringent injections*, when they stop the infectious discharge, may be reckoned among the causes of *abscess* in the *perinæum*, which follows a gonorrhœa *.”

15. M. COL DE VILLARS, that famous and excellent practitioner in venereal cases, enters into a greater detail of the evil effects of *astringents* than even the celebrated Astruc.

“ This method of curing the virulent gonorrhœa is not less dangerous than *speedy* and *easy*: experience has but too often proved that all *vitriolic*, *astringent injections*, or such as are composed of fixed *acid salts*, recommended by Musitan, the medicated stone, colcothar, styptic or

* Astruc was one of the most learned physicians, and the best writer of his time on the venereal disease.

aninous powders, capable of *speedily checking* the discharge, certainly do not fail to occasion the most *dreadful* consequences, and even the confirmed pox (*la vérole universelle*), when they are used in the commencement of the disease, or before the virus has been destroyed by proper remedies; in fact, the matter which flows freely, or begins to flow from the parts which are the seat of the gonorrhœa, after being suddenly suppressed, accumulates, occasions heat and inflammation in the affected parts, contaminating and infecting every thing it touches. The virus, thus increasing in quantity and quality, affects every part of the organs of generation, is repelled to the testicles by the *vas deferens*, exciting considerable inflammation, or increasing the disposition to form it; the *urethra* and *neck* of the *bladder* chiefly suffer, from the blood-vessels of this canal being contracted and closed by the irritation and corrugation of fibres impeding the free circulation of the blood, in consequence of the *saline and styptic particles* of the *injection*; hence arise swelling of the *corpora cavernosa* and *corpus spongiosum* of the urethra, *ulcers* of the canal, partial or total *retention* of urine, and every symptom that can happen in a violent gonorrhœa. If the virus be very active and penetrating, and be not evacuated by the urethra, it passes through the sanguiferous and lymphatic vessels, mixes with the *whole mass* of blood, and occasions an *universal lues*, which soon becomes evident by pains in the head, nocturnal pain in the bones, exostoses, eruptions, pustules, and buboes, or venereal ulcers; unless the infection attach itself to some particular organ during a certain time, and, afterwards, give rise to some disease. But if the virus be less subtil and penetrating, occasioning no affection of the glands of the urethra, nor have time to become so active; it fixes in the glands, indurates them, and sometimes remains a number of years without causing any dangerous symptoms, until it be roused by the presence of some internal or external disease; it is then put into action, and occasions particular symptoms, which are never attributed to their real cause."

16. The celebrated DARAN observes on M. Col de Villars—"M. Col de Villars, asserting that *astringents* never fail to occasion dreadful accidents when employed in the beginning of a gonorrhœa, or before the virus has been destroyed, seems to insinuate that nothing dangerous is to be apprehended from their use, towards the *end of the disease*, and after the *destruction* of the *virus*. I confess that astringents could be employed, without temerity, provided the discharge was occasioned by relaxation of the excretory vessels only; but *experience* has taught me, that the dangerous accident, which we are now speaking about (stricture), is the effect of an ulcer in the urethra, that has not been cicatrized. It is impossible, there-

fore, for any one to have greater reason than I have myself to prohibit, in general, the use of *astringents* in the cure of a *virulent gonorrhœa*."

17. VAN SWIETEN—This learned and late celebrated physician to the court of Vienna, says, speaking of injections, "Since such injections cleanse the urethra through its whole length, and could be of various composition, according to the degree of affection, they (the injectors) expected to be able to cure the gonorrhœa, like a *topical* or *local* disease, by injections alone. This was the opinion of an eminent physician, who recommended *lime-water*, *solutions of saccharum saturni*, *vitriolum album*, *Jecodum* of *guaiacum*, &c. as injections, promising, by these means, a certain cure. I confess my sentiments to be very different from theirs, and believe those methods dangerous; since such remedies certainly do mischief, by inducing *contraction*, and, by stopping the discharge, occasion a *deceitful hope*, but by no means a *perfect cure*: nor does such a *sensible* part as the urethra bear these acrid or irritating things, and intolerable pain is sometimes produced; the whole urethra corrugated, and, by a continuance of their use, becomes *totally closed*; whence arise many *dreadful evils*, besides those which may be expected from retention of the venereal virus."

18. LUDWIG—"In repulsions of the gonorrhœa (urethritis venerea), particularly by *strong astringents* and *opiates*, without any excretion or evacuation of the morbid matter, if dryness of the fauces, with fungous excrescences, swelling of the testicles, or other morbid symptoms occur, the discharge is to be reproduced by every possible method."

19. ROWLEY—Above thirty years ago I wrote a short Treatise on the recent Venereal Infection of the Urethra, condemning, in very severe terms, the rough mercurial, aloetic, purging, vomiting, and the *astringent injection* practice, illustrated with a few cases and observations. This was one of the first essays reprehending those violent practices that are to be found in *Boerhaave* and most preceding authors; for before, and at that very time, they were too commonly the methods of cure in vogue amongst the old army and navy and other surgeons *.

20.

* I went into his Majesty's service the 8th of May 1761, and was first sent to Belleisle, where, likewise, was the late Mr. John Hunter. I was then but between seventeen and eighteen years old; and a circumstance gave me an opportunity of seeing many unfortunate victims of rough antivene-real practices, as well as the mischiefs arising from *astringent injections*, &c. A great number of men and officers had come from the East Indies with the late Sir George Pococke, shattered in their constitutions, not only by venereal complaints, but by the drastic treatment they underwent in that hot climate, with the intention of curing their maladies. From suppressed runnings many were confirmedly poxed; old fetid and callous ulcers of

20. VOGEL—"It is necessary to abstain from the use of *astringent*, and particularly *saturine injections*, which, by checking the *salutary discharge*, produce symptoms that are much more dangerous, as *scirrhus tumours* of the *testicles*, *luboos*, *venereal gout*, *rheumatic pains*, *tumours*, *ulcers*, and even the *lues venerea*."

21. LIEUTEAUD, speaking of the swelled testicles, says, "That stopping the virulent discharge by *astringents* is among the causes."

22. BROOKS, in his Practice of Physic—"When a gonorrhœa has continued a long while, or long enough for the *poisonous matter* to make its

the legs were numerous; obstructions of urine from former *astringents*, and old diseases about the perinæum, and external and internal fistulas about the anus, presented themselves. They were sent on shore from the *Arrogant*, and, I believe, some from the *Royal William*, and were under my immediate care, at a temporary hospital, erected with masts and sails in the place they called Bloody Bay, where we lost some men on the first landing. Young as I was, I became extremely anxious and interested in the relief of these unfortunate men, as well as petty officers. I succeeded and cured some, and in others I failed. It was there I had the first opportunities of exerting myself in the cure of old ulcers of the legs, and formed the outline of that plan, which I published about the year 1767, but lately republished and improved, and by which many thousands have been radically cured.

The miserable cases I then saw, victims to *astringent injections* and other *mal-practices*, filled my mind with horror, and made such a strong impression, that I was determined never to use those methods and remedies, that I saw, not only then but afterwards, while in the service, in the West India islands and at the Havannah, &c. In these burning climates I had opportunities to see the face of diseases quite different to the European, and I endeavoured to meet them in a manner opposite to many then in vogue; for almost all the infected died. There I formed my resolution never to *bleed* or give any *saline* remedies in putrid-tending diseases. The whole plan of cure for *putrid sore throats* and *putrid fevers* is fully explained in the Rational Practice of Physic; and for the success, the *St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary* can best declare it. If in the *yellow fever* of the West Indies, projectors had not started up, who would not listen to the voice of experience, neither the putrid fevers of *Philadelphia* nor *New York*, &c. would have been so fatal. It is a fact, that the avoiding all *saline remedies*, and judiciously giving the *acid of vitriol*, with wine, &c. sometimes with or without bark, after removing whatever may offend the stomach and intestines, are the only means, with pure air, &c. of checking and counteracting putrid, malignant, and infectious diseases; which has been fully proved in thousands of instances, for a period of above thirty-five years, under my own inspection, and that of others, untainted with hazardous prejudices. In all the hospitals on the continent, there are more slaughtered by the *lancet* and *saline cooling* remedies, in infectious and low fevers, than by the diseases.

way into the blood; or if, by *astringents* given unseasonably, it cannot make its exit, then the patient is infected with the *pox*."

23. JUBERTHOU, a very skilful writer on venereal complaints, asserts, "I cannot too often repeat that *astringent injections*, against which all *learned practitioners* exclaim, very often expose patients to *stoppages of urine*, that prove *fatal*, or at least reduce them to the necessity of evacuating their urine drop by drop, occasioning incurable fistulas, and, in fact, destroying millions of the human species, by preventing the *ejection of semen* in the act of coition."

DARAN—(*Effet nuisible des Astringens*)—"My observations prove that *astringent remedies* are very deceitful. Many of my patients have employed them in vain, others have had the misfortune to see them succeed in appearance, and have happily surmounted their violence, and the discharge has recommenced. These *astringent injections* often produce so great a *contraction* of the urinary canal, that the evacuation of urine is intercepted, which has induced me to place this stricture amongst the number of venereal causes of a difficulty of voiding urine."

M. Daran has given many instances in his *cases of stricture* and other diseases, from *astringents*. It was impossible for any practitioner to have had more experience or success in the cure of maladies of the urethra. I knew him intimately at Paris, and was frequently witness to his success; he introduced me to M. Sabatier, M. Louis, and to the Royal Academy of Surgery, near thirty years ago; and in my conversations with this able practitioner, he always mentioned improper treatment, and particularly *astringent injections*, as the cause of so many bougie cases; but he never used *caustic bougies*, though he cured many thousands *.

M. Daran, before he introduces *Astruc* and *Col de Villars* in support of his doctrine against *astringents*, says, "It is easy to conceive that all emollients are proper to remedy the contraction, and they are more efficacious in proportion as they are more powerful. But can there be a greater motive for *entirely banishing astringents* than their want of utility in not operating, or from their having only a *temporary* effect, or a dangerous one when it *lasts*, which we are obliged to destroy to prevent mischief?

"That these are their common effects no one can doubt, and I appeal to all experienced practitioners, *worthy of credit*, for the truth of what I advance," &c.

24. DIBON, surgeon to the Swiss guards at Paris—"Consulting M. Dionis and Winslow on a case of impeded urine, those very excellent surgeons

* The composition of M. Daran's bougies will be given in the latter part of this work.

declared, that the cause of retention was a gonorrhœa ill-treated, because we know that strangury often succeeds a gonorrhœa, caused by *astringents* given *mal à propos*, and in too great quantity," &c. &c.—"*Délibéré à Paris, par nous, Docteurs Régens de la faculté de médecine en l'université de Paris, le 21 Mai 1748.* (Signé) WINSLOW et DIONIS."

25. HOME—"Tumor Testium venerens, or venereal swelled Testicle. The cause is an inflammation of the urethra, communicated through the vasa deferentia to the testicles, from too much exercise, over heat, *astringent injections*, and too strong cathartics," &c.

26. STORCK, the celebrated Vienna court physician, friend and *élève* of Baron Van Swieten, in his *Annus Medicus* gives a case of gonorrhœa, suppressed by astringents, occasioning an ulcer of the navel, and there producing matter similar to that which before came from the urethra. In his *Precepta Medica* he says, "*Astringent and styptic injections are always to be avoided, where the matter flowing forth is acrid, tenacious, badly coloured, or fetid, for the actual venereal virus is as yet malignant. Injections, with a great quantity of saccharum saturni, ought never to be used; for the most part they quickly mitigate the symptoms; but the consequences are horrid, of long continuance, and frequently resist the most judicious remedies.*"

27. STOLL mentions obstruction of urine to arise from *astringent injections* and turpentine remedies, &c. "On opening the body of a man who died of suppression of urine, from an ill-treated gonorrhœa, 1. Small gangrenous ulcers of the urethra were found. 2. The prostate and adjacent glands were much swelled and inflamed, almost in a state of mortification. 3. The bladder had *burst* from retention of urine.

"Another instance where a man died of suppressed urine, from neglected or ill-treated gonorrhœa: showed two abscesses ruptured and placed on the prostate, the one swelling as large as a nutmeg, the other three times larger."

28. Professor MARHERR, after showing that the nervous membrane of the bladder is continued all through the urethra, says, *Acriter sensibilis est*, as often as the mucus is abraded or the epidermis covering it. The internal superficies of the urethra is smooth, and universally lubricated with mucus, that it should be defended from the acrimony of the urine. Then he demonstrates the mucous sinuses, and their openings in the urethra. They begin at the bulb, and continue to the gland. In hos sinus mucus deponitur et secernitur, sive id per arterias solummodo fiat, sive per cryptas minimas et folliculos simplices, qui quidem hic vix demonstrari possunt, neque ab omnibus anatomicis admittuntur.

In these sinuses is the first seat of the *venereal poison*, or *miasma* in the gonorrhœa: when it extends higher it can affect the prostate and *vesiculæ seminales*,

feminales, &c. Not sufficiently cautiously do they act, who throw injections up the urethra in a gonorrhœa, and who persuade themselves that they can wash away the *fomes* or venereal poison; whilst the liquor, injected in a contrary direction to nature, drives the matter, which should be discharged, into the *inmost recesses* of the *lacunæ*, and confines it there, particularly if the injection be *astringent*, which *surgeons frequently use*.

29. PLECK, that learned and excellent writer, says, "*Astringent injections* thrown into the urethra do much mischief, and give rise to buboes and swelled testicles."

30. DE MEZA—"The use of the antivenereal remedies should be persisted in, until the running almost ceases of its own accord; *donec fluxus spontè fere cessat*: for the gonorrhœa being stopped improperly, gives origin to the *confirmed pox*." He gives an instance of a suppressed gonorrhœa occasioning a diseased bone of the forehead, and confirmed lues.

31. CALLISEN, amongst the causes of *dysuria*, or voiding urine drop by drop, or with difficulty, mentions venereal virus, *incautious injections*, &c.

32. *La Medecine Militaire*—The late amiable and humane monarch of France, who fell a victim to the barbarity and insanity of the times, had a code of medical military practice written for the use of the army surgeons, &c. ever careful of that people who so ungratefully treated him, compiled by M. Colombier, who says,

"For it is evident that, without this latter precaution, the use of astringents, either internally or externally, occasions very dangerous symptoms, or at least multiplies the *lues venerea*."

"There was a famous surgeon at Paris formerly, who wishing to cure the gonorrhœa *speedily*, and with little trouble, administered nitre in water during the first fortnight, then gave a purge or two, and employed *astringents in every form possible*: sometimes he succeeded in *stopping* the discharge without inducing any unpleasant consequences; but he generally gave his patients the *confirmed pox*, and his method occasioned either *callosities*, *strictures*, or *carinities* in the urethra. It is a happy reflection, that those medical practitioners who hold posts in the army have more sure and less dangerous principles of practice than this surgeon.—After the supposed cure, little *knots* remain in the urinary canal, which are called *carinities*, and which are nothing else than the cicatrices of former small ulcers, which have formed themselves in this part. This happens from too strong or premature *astringent injections*."

33. CULLEN—"I am persuaded the early use of astringent injections is pernicious, producing swelled testicles, &c." He approves of mercurial injections, and advises astringents in the latter stage of the disease.

34. SWEDIAUR disapproves of *acid* or *astringent injections* during the inflammatory stage of the disease. In suppressed gonorrhœa "the virus seems

seems to leave its natural seat under the *frenum*, and to settle lower down, where the excretory ducts of the seminal vessels and prostate gland open into the urethra, and there excites a swelling in one or both testicles; or, if it has been driven still lower down, to the neck of the bladder, the patient has a continual desire to make water, without being able to pass any, or only a few drops at a time: he is then often unable to stand upright for a quarter of an hour; and a total suppression of urine is, in this case, frequently the consequence. In all these different places the poison generally produces only a superficial inflammation; though not unfrequently also, by its virulence or want of a sufficient quantity of mucus to dilute it, an *excoriation* and *ulceration* of the urethra, which then never fails to end in an obstinate gleet, and to be followed by a general infection of the mass.

35. Mr. PERCIVAL POTT—This excellent, learned, and celebrated surgeon, whose experience and observations have enriched surgery with several useful improvements, the result of public confidence and the most extensive practice perhaps any surgeon ever enjoyed, was decidedly against the use of injections. I remember being consulted by a young gentleman of fashion, in a very recent gonorrhœa, who requested, before I wrote any prescription, to hear Mr. Pott's opinion; who, when even the lubricating injection joined with *argentum vivum* was proposed, objected to the practice, and said, it might be used, but he did not give his assent, and the young gentleman must remember, that he thought it his duty to say he might inject; *sed tuo periculo*, said Mr. Pott, who would not be responsible for the consequences.

36. Mr. J. HOWARD—This ingenious surgeon has written very sensibly on venereal infection, and dedicates his work to the celebrated Mr. Pott, acknowledging his obligations to that great practitioner for whatever just notions the work contained. When speaking on astringent injections, he says, "The truly distressing complaints just described (abscess and fistula in perinæo) may be, and often are produced by mismanagement during the inflammatory stage of a clap. But it is necessary that the young practitioner should also know that these remote consequences, namely, stricture, abscess, fistula in perinæo, and diseased prostate, may arise from suppression of what may be called a very trifling clap, even in its early stage, at a time when the symptoms of inflammation are extremely slight. And I have more than once been able to trace each of these unfortunate circumstances to the use of *sedative injections*; so difficult it is to form a right judgment of a supposed cure, so various are the symptoms of the disease, and so dangerous may its consequences be!"

37. Mr. EVERARD HOME—This distinguished gentleman, in direct contradiction to the practice of his preceptor the late Mr. John Hunter, who

was a warm advocate and practiser in the freest use of astringent injections, says, " Since this work was first published, a number of cases of stricture have come under my care, that were considered by the patients themselves to be the immediate effects of injections; in many of these I was inclined to attribute their opinion to prejudice; and therefore did not venture to draw any conclusions from them. I have, however, seen two or three instances, where, from using injections *less diluted* than they ought to have been, the irritation was almost *immediate*, in the middle of the canal, where the injection stopped; and the formation of a stricture in that part, which is not commonly the seat of the original disease, could be *actually traced to the use of the injection*. The internal membrane had become thickened, in consequence of inflammation forming a swelling, which was felt *externally*, through the common integuments.

" These instances, which do not admit of a *doubt*, led me to pay more attention to this subject, and I have since been induced to believe, that many of the accounts I had before discredited were not unworthy of attention. In those cases of stricture attributed to injections, it is to be observed, that the application had generally given *unusual pain*, brought on an *irritation on the internal membrane of the urethra*, or at the neck of the bladder, as it is more commonly termed; which proved both *tedious and troublesome*, before it could be removed.

" That injections, injudiciously used, have, in some individual cases, disposed the canal to stricture, *I think is supported by facts beyond the reach of controversy*. There is, therefore, in all irritable habits, some *danger* of an injection producing this effect, since, whenever the stimulating powers of the injection are greater than the membrane of the urethra in that person can bear, which *cannot be à priori ascertained*, a state of irritation is the consequence.

" From the idea that injections do sometimes produce strictures, and that we are *unable beforehand* to determine in what cases they may be used with impunity, *I have been induced entirely to forego their use in the treatment of gonorrhœa*, rather than incur a risk, however small it may be, of producing so *seriously distressing a complaint*." This is an honourable declaration of the *eleve* of the late Mr. J. Hunter.

Cotemporaries, &c.—After the long period that I have been engaged in medical pursuits, it is hoped, that it will not be considered improper to communicate what I have seen, known, and heard from the most eminent practitioners in Europe, the physicians and surgeons of the hospitals at *Paris, Lyons*, and different parts of France; of *Florence, Rome, Naples, Bologna, Ferrara, Padua, Venice*, in Italy; *Trieste, Vienna, Ratisbon, Franckfort, Mentz, Cologne, Louvain, Brussels*; and at *Rotterdam, the Hague, Amsterdam, Leyden*, and other parts of Holland, in

my various juvenile and later travels to ascertain medical facts, and render my favourite work, *Schola Medicinæ*, practically useful. Amongst other inquiries, I always found the most experienced and able surgeons and physicians inimical to *astringent injections*, and have constantly heard them condemned in the severest terms, as productive of all the evils enumerated. In my own observations and practice, which, in above forty years, have been immense, owing to natural activity, an ardent desire of comprehending and improving the medical art, and seizing all opportunities in promulgating whatever was considered useful; I can most solemnly assert, that I have seen, with concern, many hundreds of devoted victims that, at different periods, have been inexpressibly sufferers from the wanton use of *astringent injections*. So that the numerous facts of cotemporaries, many of whom had been in practice forty or fifty years before I entered into the profession, and numerous practitioners about my own age, in different countries, and in England, whose veracity can be depended on, make a period of nearly one hundred years of actual witnesses, who were celebrated and esteemed for skill and judgment, to whom I have been personally known; who were unanimous in their disapprobation and abhorrence of *astringents*, from the mischiefs they generally produced.

There have been some, who have avoided the use of astringent injections during the inflammatory and purulent periods, and only assert their utility after the infection has been removed. It is difficult to know with certainty when the infection may be removed; and, in general, if practitioners would suffer the *muciparous* glands to perform their own balsamic *healing functions*, the running in a little time will gradually stop of itself, under a mild mercurial course, a fact the injectors seem not to know; and if it should not, however disagreeable to the patient, *astringent injections*, if not always, are frequently hazardous or dangerous, and sometimes destructive.

If it were asked, what can be brought in defence of astringent injections? the plain answer would be, the unsubstantial effusions of chimerical projectors, the decoying stratagems of pliant interested men, who acquiesce in prevailing fashions, however absurd and injurious, and the bold assertions and deceitful promises of audacious empirics, who have no reputation to lose, and who are totally indifferent to the manifold miseries they heap on mankind*.

Behold

* The assertions, "that the running of a gonorrhœa venerea will cure itself; that local diseases only require local or topical remedies; that the *venereal inflammation* of the mucal glands, &c. of the urethra ought to be treated

Behold the mass of evidence, then, introduced, containing the sentiments of some of the most learned, skilful, and experienced physicians and surgeons in Europe, directed against the use of astringent injections; men who have been famous for veracity and judgment, for above two hundred years. It remains, hereafter, to see whether practitioners, with these undeniable proofs before them, will still continue those unskilful and deleterious practices, that have produced such various calamities to society. It will be seen whether pertinacious obstinacy in error, or humanity, will predominate, in the cure of recent venereal infection.

ON VARIOUS OBSTRUCTIONS OF THE URETHRA, OR URINARY CANAL, IMPEDING THE FREE EVACUATION OF URINE.

THE terrible effects of astringent injections have been sufficiently proved by the repeated writings of the most learned practitioners that ever appeared; with these observations, truths, and most sensible admonitions, the rash injectors, by their conduct, seem to have been either unacquainted, or they have turned a deaf ear to the cautions of experience. If bold injecting adventurers had not continually started up, the excellent authors, whose sentiments have been quoted, would have been less free in their spirited animadversions on those injection delusions, from time to time, for so long a period, as two centuries. From a review of what has been advanced, even ignorance, after reading these facts, unless invincible, cannot form any rational plea in favour of styptic, vitriolic, or saturnine applications in the cure of urethritis venerea. If the erroneous or infatuated will not peruse the original authors; they have, in this more compendious information, the collective force of safe principles and doctrines, united with direful descriptions, that are sufficiently cogent to deter all, but the callous-hearted and inhuman, from a repetition of those ignorant and dangerous projects, that have brought to unsuspicious patients such dreadful calamities. To consider and remedy all the evils enumerated, as far as they may be remediable, becomes the immediate object of the subsequent part of this treatise.

treated as though it had not arisen from *infection*, but simply as a *catarrh*, &c." and other unfounded, absurd, dissecting-room and fallacious notions, will hereafter be fully refuted.

The effects of astringents; of not early applying the grand specific, in its mildest and simplest form, and other omissions and mal-practices, already intimated, are as follows:

I. Contraction of the urethral canal, obstructing the free discharge of urine.

II. Callosities, or thickened hardened cicatrices, and urethral ulcers of long continuance.

III. Spongy excrescences, of a loose texture, in the urethra.

IV. Tumefied or indurated verumontanum, diseased vesiculæ feminales.

V. Spongy and soft enlargement of the prostate gland.

VI. Scirrhus, or hardness and swelling of the prostate gland.

VII. Ulcer of the prostate gland.

VIII. Contraction of the neck of the bladder.

IX. Concretions of the urethra.

X. Ulcers of the perinæum communicating with the urethra, through which part of the urine passes, &c.

These are the general affections; though, on a more minute inquiry, others subordinate to these frequently occur. What have been recited, anatomical examination has demonstrated. Every disease in the disinal catalogue I have seen treated by different methods, and with various success; from a comparative view of which, what has been found most useful, and attended with least pain and danger to patients, in the greatest number of cases, shall be faithfully and unreservedly communicated.

AFFECTIONS, &c.

I. CONTRACTION OF THE URETHRAL CANAL OBSTRUCTING THE FREE ISSUE OF URINE.

This obstructs the passing of urine in various degrees, more or less, in a small, forked, or twisted screw-like stream, or drop by drop, with greater or less pain.

This obstruction may exist in the urethra many years, without any great inconvenience, if the stricture should not have much lessened the canal. The semen, under such
a cir-

REMEDIES AND TREATMENT.

1. Open the intestines with a gentle laxative, and the rectum with an enema, that there may be no compression of parts from fæces or excrements previous to examination.

2. Soak the penis in warm milk and water, and inject a little of the following composition, or Ol. amygdalarum, warm:

R Olei amygd. ʒij,
Vitelli ovi q. s.
Aquæ puræ ʒvj. Misc.

Affections, &c.

a circumstance, indeed, may not be properly directed into the vagina in the act of coition, and may become a cause of impotence, and thus the procreation of the human species may be prevented: which cases I have known.

As men advance in years, however, and the expelling powers for evacuating the bladder of urine be less energetic, or weaker, the obstruction is more and more sensibly felt. The muscles of the bladder, called *detrusores urinæ*, cannot so powerfully act, so as to overcome the resistance formed by the stricture in the urethra; the urine is with difficulty voided, and in some instances with no inconsiderable pain. Whether these symptoms happen earlier or later in life, the mode of treatment is the same. The whole cure must depend on circumstances, according to the difficulties experienced, which are to be ascertained by the patient's feelings, and the introduction of bougies. One rule should be invariably observed, which is, to pass the largest sized bougie the urethral canal can bear without painful sensations. No force nor violence should ever be used; gentleness cures, but roughness and force destroy. I have known instances where a rude unskilful operator has passed the catheter with so much force, to overcome urethral resistance, that a new opening out of the line of the urethra has been made into the bladder, causing great inflammation,

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If the penis be in a state of relaxation, or shortened from cold, &c. and its internal membrane corrugated, the operator might be deceived without the use of the injection, &c. and mistake any uneven surface of the urethra for a stricture, or obstructions.

3. Having discovered the exact situation of the impediment by a catgut bougie, if the canal be very small, or by a medicated larger bougie smeared with the unguentum, if admissible; which should pass beyond the seat of the disease; it should then remain in the urethra as long as the sensibility of the parts will suffer it, without exciting heat, or uneasy sensation. It is better to proceed slow and sure, than to produce inflammation by hasty unfeeling rashness.

4. If, after a few applications of the medicated bougies, with the appropriate unguentum, no increased secretion and excretion from the mucal glands and surface of the urethra should appear, nor any sensible or decided alteration in the stricture be evident, then the bougie should be covered or sprinkled with a little white precipitated mercury; or, if greater force be necessary, with a little turbith mineral rubbed into the part of the bougie that will come in contact with the stricture, which has been previously ascertained by the first examination. If this application produce a discharge, and the bougie should come out covered with mucus, it must

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tion, excruciating pains, mortification, death!

A humane consideration of the sensibility and all the various functions of all the genital parts, should be uppermost in the practitioner's mind. He should recollect, that apparently small causes of disease in the kidneys, ureters, bladder, or urethra, often produce the most direful effects. None of these parts are to be treated with unfeeling carelessness; but with the greatest reflection, circumspection, and humanity. The young artist should ever consider a variety of circumstances before he acts. There is nothing so dangerous as what is called a bold, dashing, ferocious surgeon, in these delicate complaints. All the anatomy, physiology, hitherto known, of the parts, is scarcely sufficient, in some instances, to determine the most rational practice necessary. It likewise happens, in many cases, that the most skilful and erudite medical science is demanded in the internal treatment, or no success will attend the greatest surgical skill.

II. CALLÖSITIES, OR THICKENED
HARDENED CICATRICES, AND
URETHRAL ULCERS OF LONG
CONTINUANCE.

These are known by a long-continued issuing of fetid purulent pus, or yellow matter, from the urethra. They may be situated in various parts of the canal; are the dreadful effects

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be continued, with or without merc. precipitatus albus, or turbith mineral. These, acting gently on the surface of the former old cicatrix, callosity, thickened membrane, or callous-edged ulcer, soon relax the stricture, so as to admit a larger bougie, which may be introduced, and the discharge will be often sufficiently continued, without the mercurial preparations, by only using the unguentum suppurans. Mercurials are not always used on a supposition that these cases are venereal, but merely to gently abrade and remove the contracted part of the membrane, by the mildest mode of producing excoriation. After this, larger and larger bougies are to be introduced, augmenting the size every three or four days, until the largest sized bougie be admissible, occasionally adding the calomel or turbith mineral, if the discharge should cease, or the stricture continue to obstinately resist the remedy; but this must be performed with great skill and caution, never forgetting the extreme sensibility of the parts, and the danger of exciting too much irritation, which might produce inflammation, &c.

5. The discharge and dilatation being gently continued, in time, the stricture, or whatever caused the obstruction, will be removed.

6. After the obstruction is decidedly removed, which happens sometimes in a few weeks, two or three

Affections, &c.

effects of the urethritis venerea ill treated, corroding the membranes lining the urethra. They likewise arise from that vile practice which whim, not sound reason, adopted, in suffering a clap to cure itself, by letting it run its course. This sapient project has been rashly recommended by a few visionists in this and other countries, as a very valuable improvement; and during the issuing of the contagious matter, these artists, to save appearances, boast that they give crumb of new bread formed into pills, and coloured with any colour the honest surgeon pleases. Such duplicity and deception is so disgraceful to the art, that it cannot be too much reprobated and detested. If by this fraudulent stratagem, however, the cure of the disease could be effected, some apology might be offered for the contrivance; but the contrary being the case, and as some unfortunates have been nearly bereaved of life, or, by the trial, rendered miserable as long as they have existed; it is hoped this wild conceit will no longer be practised. To the honour of the profession in general, however credulous some may be, few, very few, have been the dupes of these last squeezings of the extravagant brains of insatuated speculating maniacs; fitter for Bedlam than to be practitioners in surgery*.

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three months, according to cases, constitutions, and circumstances; a simple healing bougie is to be still daily introduced, of the largest size the urethra will bear without any uneasy sensation; until there be every reason to conclude the stricture is completely conquered, and the patient, as far as the case may admit, perfectly cured.

7. The complete cure of a stricture is ascertained by the free evacuation of urine, the removal of every impediment in the erection of the penis, and a powerful ejaculation of the semen in the act of coition.

8. It is an erroneous assertion, that bougies only act by dilatation, and that any simple composition of wax, oil, &c. answers every curative intention. The contrary might be irrefutably proved, by the evident effects of Daran's and other bougies; as likewise by clear reasoning on the structure of the parts affected, and the action of the bougies on the diseases: this, however, is not the present object, and therefore shall be deferred to a future opportunity.

It seems, that those who have made this inconsiderate declaration have never deeply considered, anatomically and physiologically, the functions and peculiarity of the parts concerned or diseased. The

excellent

111.

* I shall give a shocking case, caused by suffering the venereal running to continue, according to this mode.

Affections, &c.

III. SPONGY EXCRESCENCES OF A LOOSE TEXTURE IN THE URETHRA.

Some authors have doubted the existence of these soft excrescences; but facts, in numerous instances, have proved their existence. I have seen some few cases where the excrescence has been visible, near the external opening of the urethra, and very lately I was consulted by Mr. Kerrison, my neighbour, formerly a pupil at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, for a patient, in which case the excrescence was visible in the external opening of the urethra, soft and granulated, similar to those that sometimes appear on the surface of the glans penis and internal part of the prepuce.

It must be remarked, that the world were first obliged for a consistent, mild, and successful treatment of urethral obstructions, to my late worthy and esteemed friend M. Daran, of Paris. The success of this gentleman, to which I was formerly an eye-witness, raised his reputation through all Europe above the reach of snarling envy, and he has been acknowledged by the greatest and most learned practitioners, by their testimonies published, to have been superior in the disorders for which he was famed, to any other practitioner in the known world. His whole mode of treatment will now be communicated for the benefit of society, which was one
of

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excellent and evident effects of an increased and artificial discharge, produced by medicated bougies, is in direct contradiction to those sentiments. The great cures, in thousands of instances, performed without any of those disastrous effects and misery, which attend too often the application of *caustic bougies*, by the mild methods here recommended, it is hoped, will have due weight with every humane practitioner; so that all caustic, barbarous applications may be, for ever, banished the art, and human misery not receive additional tortures by such savage, unfortunate, and frequently unsuccessful modes of treatment.

The excrescences appear like those already mentioned, and are not removable, even by repeated mercurial courses, as a multiplicity of experience fully proves. They are not so common as the other causes in obstructing urine. In passing a moderate sized bougie they commonly bleed; but they are with no small difficulty distinguishable from other urethral impediments. The necessary treatment of these cases being very little different from the former two, they may be considered practically in the same point of view. If they be at the end, or towards the end of the urethra, externally, they may be gradually wasted by solutio penetrans; or by a solution of antimonium tartarificatum, which, skilfully applied,

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of the last humane actions of a life dedicated to remove the most severe afflictions of human misery.

The bougie course of M. Daran's bougies will effectually remove these carnosities, as they have been nominated. Caustic applications, to these exuberances, are extremely hazardous, as they must act equally destructive to the membranous structure of the urethra, as well as on the wart itself, and be productive of an incurable ulcer, instead of acting on the disorder, which they are expected to remove. If the *unguentum copaiæ Darani* should not produce a sufficient suppuration to destroy these excrescences, then æthiops mineral may be rubbed on the part of the bougie where the obstruction is situated, white precipitate or turbith mineral. These methods remove, in general, the three first causes of urethral strictures, ulcers, excrescences, &c.

IV. TUMEFIED AND INDURATED VERUMONTANUM.

This is a case discoverable by passing a bougie, and reflecting anatomically on the distance of the urethral impediment from the external orifice. An examination likewise may be made *per anum*; but the disease of the verumontanum is not so clearly discoverable, as the enlargement of the prostate by similar means. Whoever reflects on the danger of exciting inflammation in this part, with the consequences, or the horrid misery of

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applied, safely removes soft excrescences.

Old, or more recent ulcers of the urethra, producing long-continued purulent gleets, which I have seen lately arise, after the cruel and ineffectual application of *caustic bougies*, are very difficult of cure. The passing of urine prevents the deterging and incarnation of these distressing ulcerous affections. They have, however, been sometimes, though seldom, perfectly cured; but they have been rendered less distressing by deterging them with *lotio penetrans*, with the mercurial powders already mentioned, or by æthiops mineral conveyed to the part; joined with judicious internal alteratives, fumigation, &c. It is little known that a *true æthiops mineral* is one of the best stimulating detergers of venereal and other ulcers.

This is a case very doubtful as to cure. Penetrating alteratives should be prescribed, and fumigations of cinnabar.

To bougies may be united the internal use of *solutio hydrargyri camphorata cum oleo amygdalarum*, to resolve, if possible, the induration. Caustic bougies, in this instance of stricture, have produced hæmorrhage, inflammation, depositions of urine in the cellular structure, mortification, death!

When a cure cannot be accomplished by Daran's method, it is
safest

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of burning uncertain caustics, must forbid their use, if it were only to avoid the mischiefs they produce to contiguous parts.

V. SPONGIOUS ENLARGEMENT OF
THE PROSTATE GLAND.

This spongy enlargement of the prostate gland is frequently mistaken for other causes of urethral obstruction. It is therefore necessary to use caution in impediments of urine, lest one disease be treated for another, to the detriment of the afflicted patient.

If these spongy tumours be very large, they not only impede the evacuation of urine, but likewise partially the excrement, by lessening the diameter, both of the urethra and rectum.

The spongy tumour of the prostate is only discoverable by the introduction of the finger *per anum*. Previous to this operation, the rectum should be emptied by a laxative and clyster. The patient is to be placed leaning over a chair, with the head bent much lower than the posteriors. The fore-finger then being dipped in oil, having previously injected oil into the rectum with a syringe, the finger is to be introduced, the inside downwards, the reverse of examining the state of the uterus in women. Then, gently pressing the finger, thus introduced, on the surface of the intestine, nearest to the rectum, any swelling, hard or soft, is easily perceived

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safest to recommend patience, and submission to temporary inconvenience, than to fly to hazardous experiments, which oftener add to the affliction than prove a cure.

These spongy enlargements of the prostate are often incurable. The remedies necessary are tonics of bark, zinc, steel, &c. dry diet, and every thing corroborating, cold bath, or cold sea bathing.

No bougie can augment the *vis cohesiva*. Caustic bougies have been ignorantly applied in these cases of obstructed urethra with the greatest danger to the patient's life, and without the least probability of success. Patients, under such circumstances, should submit to present inconvenience, to avoid future misery; but, like drowning men, they catch at a straw, believe any bold pretender, fly from honour and integrity, and become the cause of their own destruction. Bougies may be used occasionally as a palliative cure; more should not be attempted, when tonics, &c. do not succeed.

In most cases of urethral impediments, judicious internal treatment is necessary, and a strict and dry regimen; that the secretion of urine may be diminished, and the urine rendered less acrid by the mucilaginous drinks, &c.

All debauches of wine, spirits, &c. should be strictly forbid; but some patients will break through all rules, become the authors of their

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perceived by all who well understand the anatomy of the part; by all others the case cannot well be understood.

In this disorder a great resistance is experienced in voiding urine, which is sometimes streaked with blood, and commonly flows with glairy mucus, that sinks to the bottom of the urine.

These cases are not so dangerous as troublesome, unless injudicious remedies be applied. It is one of the diseases that happens in advanced age to persons who have had the venereal infection frequently, in the former part of their life; or to those who have been much addicted to over-exertion in venereal pleasures.

VI. SCIRRHUS, OR HARDNESS
AND SWELLING OF THE PRO-
STATE GLAND.

The prostate, like other glands contiguous to the genital parts, from venereal infection, is subject to scirrhusity.

It is discoverable by the introduction of a bougie, and an examination *per anum*, reflecting on the anatomical situation of this urethral gland.

If it be large, it impedes not only the urine, in particular, but likewise, in some measure, the alvine feces.

It is curable, or incurable, according to the length of time it may have existed; to the degree of induration it may have acquired, and the probability of the patient's constitution

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their own destruction, and pour forth unmerited abuse on the medical profession.

I remember an eminent physician, who had laboured many years under the present recited affection. He frequently consulted me by letter; but his descriptions failed of giving a precise idea of his complaint; business, however, calling me to the country where he resided, I examined the case *per anum*, and soon found a very enlarged prostate, of a spongy texture. Tonics, cold bath, and all rational remedies, were tried in vain; for he languished many years in misery, and lately died hectic.—What havoc would caustic bougies make in such a case?

Hemlock, though commonly prescribed, as in other scirrhusous glands, always fails, therefore ought to be rejected.

If any person still should doubt the inefficacy of hemlock, let the letter on medical vanity be read, in the first volume of the Rational Practice of Physic; this was written in 1773, and I have had no reason to change my sentiments on this hemlock imposition, which De Haen, on the spot at Vienna, has fully proved, beyond the power of refutation.

Mineral alteratives, fumigations of cinnabar morning and evening, daily, for a considerable time, directed to the anus and perinæum, unguentum mercuriale perinæo et ano applicandum, mercurial clysters of solutio hydrargyri campho-
rata,

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stitution co-operating with judicious treatment.

M. Col de Villars observes, that the prostate and Cowper's glands are enlarged; and Astruc is exactly of the same sentiment, when he says, "Par là les prostates et les vésicules séminaires, se trouvant gonflées, presseront l'urethre qui les touche, plus au moins fortement, suivant que les excroissances fongueuses qui les remplissent, seront plus au moins gonflées et dilatées."

M. de la Faye, that excellent surgeon, who has given a new and improved edition of the Demonstrations of Dionis, observes, "The difficulty experienced in passing the sound in the venereal ischury, is caused by the swelling or inflammation of the prostate."

There are few experienced practical English surgeons, who have not examined and known numerous cases of this nature; the major part of which evils may be traced to owe their origin to astringent injections, or ill-treated recent venereal infection, &c.

VII. ULCER OF THE PROSTATE GLAND.

Discoverable by the same means as the former, and by the discharge of purulent pus, or foul greenish or yellow matter, issuing through the urethra.

It is very difficult of cure, and sometimes incurable. The patient languishes for years with this painful disease and continual drain, with or without

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rata, and a proper regimen, are the most probable means of removing this dreadful disorder.

Bougies, armed with unguentum copaivæ Darani, or ung. mercuriale camphoratum, applied up the urethra, so as never to increase irritation, ought to be used. Success, however, does not always crown the most skilful endeavours to cure; in which case the palliative method should be adopted, of occasionally introducing bougies.

Caustic bougies have produced, in this case, all the evils that reflecting men of experience have foreseen. Incurable ulcers, tortures, mortification, death, have succeeded their application.

A causticating surgeon passed a caustic bougie up the urethra, which immediately produced such a violent bleeding, that a chamber-pot was soon filled with blood. The patient, in a plaintive tone, observing the loss of blood made him faint, the surgeon, with a *sang froid*, replied, Get another pot then, and fill it with blood also!!!

The saline particles of the urine, coming into contact with the ulcer in passing, keep up a constant irritation, and occasion the difficulty of cure. A syringe with a long tube should be passed up the urethra, and the lotio penetrans injected, so as to touch the ulcer, three or four times a day. A stronger proportion than one grain to half a pint of *aqua distillata* would

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without hectic symptoms, and at last perishes.

This is one of the most dangerous effects of astringent injections, and other mal-practices, in treating the urethritis venerea, when recent. A terrible case will hereafter be related of the fatal effects of astringents, which must strike every feeling mind with pity for the sufferer, and vengeance for the authors of human misery.

M. Astruc says, "Que l'ulcère, de léger et superficiel qu'il étoit d'abord, doit devenir nécessairement malin, fistuleux, et calleux; que loin de pouvoir être détergé, il deviendra chaque jour plus fardide, à cause qu'il est continuellement arrosé d'une semence purulente, et d'une urine fort âcre."

An eminent physician had nearly lost his life by imprudently suffering a caustic bougie to be applied to the prostate. The quantity of blood lost was immense, and it was with great difficulty restrained.

VIII. CONTRACTION OF THE NECK OF THE BLADDER.

This may arise from nervous sympathy; various diseases of the kidneys, ureters, bladder; from ulcers, tumours, &c. situated near the neck of the bladder, pressing on the sphincter; from various irritating powers; from the part itself being thickened, and in a state of tumefaction.

The *detrusores urinæ*, &c. with difficulty counteract the resistance of the

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would be too irritating for the sensible membranes of the urethra.

Internally, solutio antimonialis mercurialis is proper, or other alteratives, with demulcent drinks, avoiding large draughts of every thing stimulating.

Bongies of *Daran*, armed with æthiops mineral, calomel, are likewise proper; or turbith mineral to deterge the ulcer: but these applications, and all others, should be used with the utmost caution; lest, in endeavouring to remove a distressing evil, evils of much greater magnitude may be experienced.

It should be observed, that a great length of time, joined with the skilfullest management, can alone relieve this terrible affection.

Dry diet, strict regimen, mineral alteratives, fumigations, and medicated suppurating bougies, however, have cured some of these very distressing complaints.

According to the variety of causes, so must this affection be treated. In some cases, antispasmodics, oleaginous mixtures with opium, warm bath, fumigations of cinnabar to the perinæum, anus, &c. are necessary. Whatever the irritating powers may be, after first investigating the cause, they should be, if possible, removed.

Thickened coats of the bladder are often irremediable.

In the contraction, the ingenious

Affections, &c.

the contraction, in their efforts to overcome the obstacle. When a stimulus to void urine arises, the whole bladder suffers, and in time becomes diseased. By its frequent exertions it loses a great part of its functions, and it diminishes in the power of dilatation; the usual quantity of urine cannot be retained.

A small portion of water excites a painful desire to evacuate the bladder, which is often effected with great difficulty, in a small stream, by spurts, or drop by drop. Blood or mucus is sometimes mixed with the urine.

IX. CONCRETION OF THE URETHRA.

The concretion of the urethra arises from the surface of the opposite sides being excoriated, or ulcerated; and as the new parts shoot out, the fibres inosculate, forming a bridge or band across the urinary canal.

In this manner fingers, from burns or scalds, if not dressed with separate dressings, have united*.

These bands or concretions of the urethra are commonly of a loose spongy texture, and are easily broken down by a bougie, if they have not been of long continuance. The difficulty of voiding urine so alarms patients in general,

that

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Mr. Jessé Foot has revived *vesicæ lotura*, which has succeeded, it is said, in numerous instances.

If alleviation of symptoms alone be the consequence of this practice, it is of great importance to society. It often happens, particularly in old age, that diseases arise, which the art cannot radically cure: in such cases physicians and patients should be content with a palliation of the symptoms.

In some cases a flexible catheter, kept in the bladder occasionally, dilates the contracted neck; but in other instances, the irritation is so great that it is insupportable.

These concretions are prevented if a bougie be introduced before the inosculatation be completed; for the tender *fibrillæ* are easily broken down: no violence, however, should be used, lest the case be mistaken.

After a bougie has been introduced beyond the seat of the disorder, the *unguentum copaiivæ* of Daran may be smeared on every bougie introduced, until a copious discharge prove that proper suppuration and increased mucal secretion are the consequence. The cure, afterwards, may be effected by the same rules that have been given in the bougie cases, already explained under the first three heads.

As to caustic bougies in these concretions,

* I remember an instance of a man having been burnt on the fingers by a flash of gunpowder; a careless young assistant dressed the wound, without reflecting on the necessity of applying the dressing round each finger, separately, by which means two of them grew together, which I was obliged to separate with a scalpel.

Affections, &c.

that before the canal be much obstructed, surgical assistance is solicited.

X. ABSCESES, ULCERS, AND LASTLY FISTULOUS ORIFICES IN PERINÆO, COMMUNICATING WITH THE URETHRA, THROUGH WHICH A PART OF THE URINE PASSES.

On suppressing venereal running by powerful *sedatives* or *astringents*, inflammation happens not unfrequently, near the prostate gland, verumontanum, &c. From inflammation, if not cured by resolution, abscesses are formed; sometimes the urine breaks through the ruptured membranes which line the urethra, and fills all the cells of the cellular structure, &c.: in other instances the abscess forms under the urethra, bends its course to some part of the perinæum, and suppurates.

Suppurations in these parts are sometimes slow in their progress, attended with exquisite pain; and the nearer they happen to be seated to the *collum vesicæ*, so much greater will be the irritation, pain in voiding urine, with tenesmus, strangury, dysury, and even ischury.

These inflamed tumours, increasing in magnitude and distending the parts, seem to drag the *collum vesicæ* and adjacents out of their exact situation, to stretch, or violently affect the nervous fibres, or surculi, &c. of these very sensible and important

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concretions, who can be certain of their action on the part or parts only to be destroyed? will they not equally act on the corpus spongiosum?

If the venereal running be suddenly suppressed by any cause, and symptoms of strangury, dysury, ischury, or total suppression of urine should happen, the discharge should be immediately solicited by a medicated bougie.

All inflammations of the urethra, or commencing abscesses, from suppressed discharge, may be thus sometimes removed if the method be practicable.

It happens in some very violent inflammations from this source, that neither bougie nor catheter can be introduced, without great force and danger to the patient; in which instances, large bleedings from the arm, powerful antiphlogistics, cathartics, percluvium, and universal warm baths, promptly administered and repeated, are first proper; but if these should not succeed, and every rational method of relief fail, in total suppression of urine, three operations are performed, according to circumstances:

Puncture in the perinæum.

Perforation of the bladder through the rectum.

Incision into the bladder above the symphysis pubis.

It is for skilful practical surgeons to determine which may be most proper.

In cases, wherein the urine passes

Affections, &c.

portant functions, so that the most excruciating tortures are experienced. The rectum, bladder, and urethra, are forced into a violent commotion, and the miseries of the patient, whilst the suppuration is forming its way outwardly, are truly deplorable. If this be not the case in all, yet it happens in many instances. The art of surgery cannot, with judgment, give relief until the matter points and is perceived externally in perinaeo, &c. with its usual concomitant of fluctuation, &c.

If the urethra escape, the danger is less; the case is more painful and troublesome than dangerous; but this must be always understood, in proportion as it impedes, more or less, the evacuation of urine, faeces, &c. and as it may be attended with greater or less pain, &c.

It sometimes happens that gangrene is the consequence of these lamentable affections; and if the patient escape death, a loss of parts, greater or less, follows.

The remains of these disasters are fistulous ulcers about the anus and perinaeum, from which, if they communicate with the urethra, urine frequently issues, occasioning the greatest misery, sometimes similar to the strongest labour pains; tremors, groans, cries, and lamentations are frequently heard; so that the scene of accumulated misery is dreadful to the feelings of every humane beholder of these frightful afflictions. Sometimes there are
three

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into the cellular structure, a bougie, or catheter of the elastic gum, should pass down the urethra, and be left in the bladder, that the urine may issue through the catheter, if this be practicable; but to some very irritable patients this is impossible, in which instance the art of surgery is obliged sometimes to relinquish the true indication of cure, and submit *pro tempore* to the contra-indication that the great sensibility of the urethra and disease of the parts demand. These are truly calamitous cases; horrid to the suffering patient, and extremely difficult to the most skillful artists in surgery.

By patience, humanity, science, and attention to circumstances, such cases are sometimes conquerable.

When the abscess has formed, it must be opened as early as possible, for delay often produces imminent danger to the parts, which, at times, seem to be affected with convulsive twittings, total inability to urine, except in exquisite pain; until the matter of the abscess be evacuated.

When the urine occupies the *cooper's spongiosum penis, perinaeum, scrotum, &c.* threatening gangrene, all the remedies, both internal and external, for mortification, should be prescribed.

Antiseptics, in the form of fomentations, cataplasms with camphor, &c. bark, vitriolated zinc, vitriolic acid, and opiates, are to be administered in desperate cases. An adherence to sound practice, avoid-
ing

Affections, &c.

three or four openings externally, from which the urine is frequently dribbling; and, to add to the tragic scene, the neck of the bladder is so much contracted, that neither bougie nor catheter can pass without more force than prudent practice may permit.

Such have been the consequences of suffering claps to cure themselves, by leaving them to nature: such have been the effects of imprudent astringent and sedative injections. Though I have no inclination to write *cases*, but rather to give the result of a very long experience; yet the annexed case may not here be improper, as a warning to young practitioners *. If case-

writing

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ing all novel untried projects and experiments, are the only means of saving the genital parts or the patient's life.

The accurate and skilful treatment of fistulous ulcers in perinæo, ano, or adjacent parts, requires a much longer consideration than the brevity of the present work admits.

Fumigations of cinnabar, sponge tents properly prepared, the destruction of external callosities by *causticum emphyreum*, alteratives, internally, long continued, and attention to the variety of circumstances accompanying these dreadful complaints, succeed in curing or greatly relieving the most desperate cases; whilst large incisions, &c.

a too

* A gentleman, of great fortune and respectability, applied to the late Mr. John Hunter for the cure of a fresh-contracted clap. He was told that the running should have its *course*, for, if let alone, it would *cure itself*. The confidence of the patient in this eccentric surgeon, induced him to neglect any mode of cure. The running, scalding, &c. were disregarded for many months. The patient then applied to Mr. Tomkins, who threw up astringent injections; as I remember the same gentleman did to an officer in the Guards, which had nearly cost him his life. Inflammation of the urethra, prostate, and perinæum, was the immediate consequence. Three separate abscesses had formed, two in perinæo, and one near the side of the anus. The urine passed through all these openings, and a fourth, that had formed not long before I first saw this truly afflicted patient. The sinuses of all these fistulous ulcers ran in different directions, perhaps to one common trunk, which alone communicated with the urinary canal. The neck of the bladder was so contracted, either by the pressure of indurated swellings, or other causes, that it was with great caution and difficulty the smallest sized bougie could pass. The symptoms attending the case were terrible. Every ten minutes or quarter of an hour the patient was thrown into the greatest dread and agitation, from the most torturing irritation, occasioned by the efforts of the stimulated bladder to void the urine. Tremors, groans, lamentable cries, dreadful convulsions and distortions of the countenance and of the whole body, and alternate pallor and floridity in the face, with staring eyes, from straining to overcome the urethral impediments,

were

*Affections, &c.**Remedies and Treatment.*

writing were my object, I could give a folio volume of various disorders, happening from those rash practices,

a too free use of the *knife*, have frequently led the patient to a lingering and painful dissolution.

It

were almost constant. The rectum was frequently drawn up with great force, with tenesmus or frequent desire of going to stool. Many external and visible appearances demonstrated the racking tortures experienced internally by the unfortunate patient. Surgeons of the first eminence for skill and probity had been consulted; and it was seldom, with repeated trials, that the smallest catheter or bougie could be passed through the neck of the bladder, so contracted was the canal in that part. When the urine dribbled through the sinuous fistulous ulcers, it was mixed with purulent matter, and what little made its exit through the contracted urethra had the same appearance. Such was the miserable situation of the patient; and all these dreadful symptoms were frequently accompanied with nausea or vomitings, cold shiverings, and frequent symptomatic fever. The patient was nearly exhausted by watchings, anxiety, grief, pain, and despair. Under these circumstances I was consulted by a respectable medical gentleman in attendance; who had seen, in a very bad case of fistulous ulcers about the anus, the success of fumigations, medicated sponge tents, and pilulæ alterantes fortiores, &c. recommended by me, and which the same gentleman condescended to strictly pursue in the present case; for without such implicit acquiescence nothing can be expected in such desperate cases.

From the consideration of this truly deplorable case, in every point of view, it occurred that the following indications of cure were most rational:

1. To alleviate the most pressing symptoms by mucilaginous preparations, anodyne clysters, opiates, and demulcent, innocent, mild diet.

2. To attempt the deterging, incarning, and cicatrising some of the fistulous ulcers by sponge tents, on which was rubbed *hydrargyrus nitratus ruber*, finely levigated.

3. To endeavour to soften the surrounding callosities, and to reduce the ulcers to a simpler and more healing state, by cinnabarine fumigations, applied to the perinæum and orifice of the anus, *mane et nocte*, conveyed by the simple fumigating machine already mentioned.

Amidst all this misery, these plans were most judiciously executed by the attending gentleman; and, by perseverance, two of the ulcers were, in the course of about two months, deterged, incarned, and cicatrised. The third was in a very favourable state, and all the symptoms were greatly mitigated. One of the fistulous ulcers I thought it would be most prudent not to attempt the cure of, were it practicable, lest, in the very contracted state of the neck of the bladder, a total suppression of urine might have been the consequence, mortification, and death. At this time the gentleman was desirous of being removed into the country, to be under the care of a practitioner in whom he placed great confidence, and to whom I communicated every

Affections, &c.

practices, which the most learned have ever reprobated.

To the case already recited, another may be added, where an astringent injection produced horrid symptoms, and proved fatal to a medical practitioner, who applied that remedy in hopes of a rapid cure, for the purpose of concealing a gonorrhœa; but the practice brought the unfortunate patient to an untimely grave *.

Remedies and Treatment.

It will be necessary to remark, that surgeons in general seem to know very little of the excellent and manifold uses of sponge tents united to proper medicaments, cinabarine fumigations, and some other important practices in the cure of fistulous, venereal, and cancerous ulcers.

Extraordinary cures are often performed by a complete science of these mild auxiliaries, however they may militate against preconceived opinions and prejudices.

THE

every idea that I could suggest for his benefit. The case, as may be easily seen by experienced practitioners, was not perfectly curable; but a great part of the most violent symptoms were much mitigated, and, with some inconveniences, a life has been preserved for about four years or more, since I gave my directions to the country practitioner.

* A young married medical gentleman, in my neighbourhood, having contracted a gonorrhœa, and wishing to conceal the disorder from his wife, took the resolution of using an astringent injection.

In a short time the most painful sensations were experienced in the urethra, which, he expressed, was like a flame of fire burning the passage of urine. Soon after succeeded dreadful agonies, and the patient called up the medical gentleman with whom he resided, my most intimate friend, declaring emphatically, that if he had been searified, peppered, salted, and then broiled on a gridiron, he should not suffer half so much misery as he then felt!

Surgeons of the first eminence were soon consulted, and no exertions that art or humanity could suggest were omitted; but the patient suffered the most frightful tortures. The urine was drawn off, a few days, with great pain and difficulty. Misery succeeded misery. Nothing was heard but dreadful, yet unavailing lamentations. A total suppression of urine, cold shiverings, the concomitant of abscess forming, the most painful symptoms, with a constant effort to urinate, without effect: shrieks, groans, tremors, and the most pressing tortures, and cold sweats, convulsions, and faintings, were soon succeeded by the greatest favourer of such calamity, death.

The unfortunate patient prayed fervently for a speedy dissolution, whilst he retained his recollection.

The excellent surgeon, the late Mr. Percival Pott, was called, and with his usual quickness, penetration, prescience, and judgment, declared the

THE composition of Mr. Daran's bougies, unguents, &c. shall be delivered in the original language of the author, by which it will evidently appear, that this great surgeon, for the cure of strictures of the urethra, did not depend on mere dilatation of the urinary canal; but on medicated bougies, capable of acting on the urethral membranes, mucal glands, productive of a discharge that gradually removed thousands of strictures. The joint testimonies in favour of Mr. Daran's bougies are not from obscure medical and chirurgical practitioners; but from many of the most eminent surgeons and physicians that have flourished for these last sixty years, in Italy, France, England, and every part of Europe; and even in the East and West Indies, America, &c. Princes, men of the first rank, merchants, and inferiors of every denomination, have experienced the superior efficacy of M. Daran's skill in those cases, testified by the warmest expressions of gratitude. Proofs so numerous and interesting, cases so decidedly difficult, that had resisted all other previous attempts to cure, leave the high reputation of the inventor above the reach of malevolence and detraction. It only remains for humane surgeons to imitate this author and alleviator of inexpressible misery, and to endeavour, by observation and attention to causes and effects, to acquire, by successful experience, an honourable fame, similar to that which the celebrated M. Daran so justly merited. Just notions of the diseases and remedies will certainly, above all other means, chase from the art of surgery the dreadful application of caustic bougies, which has lately so infatuated many credulous surgeons, who are respectable in most other respects.

case to be abscessed prostate, &c. from the injection, and that it would prove fatal; nor would all the powers of medicine or surgery avert the fatal blow. This prediction was soon verified, and dissection *post mortem* showed ulcer, tumour, and mortification of the neck of the bladder and adjacent parts, &c. &c.

A variety of such cases might be produced; but this being a striking instance of an useful life being evidently lost by the application of astringents to produce a speedy cure; it is hoped it may have a proper weight, and deter future practitioners from the admission of such destructive practices.

COMPOSITION DES REMEDES EMPLOYES PAR M. DARAN DANS LES MALADIES DE L'URETHRE.

LES BOUGIES.

On en distingue de trois sortes : les grosses, les moyennes, et les petites.

Preparation des premieres Bougies.

Il faut prendre des feuilles de ciguë, de nicotiane, de lotier odorant, ou treffe musqué, de fleurs et feuilles de mille pertuis, une grande poignée de chacune, coupées, menues et hachées. Les mettre dans un chaudron avec dix livres d'huile de noix. Ajoutez une livre, de fiente de brebis seche ; posez le chaudron sur un feu modéré, et faites bien cuire ces plantes jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient comme rissolées ; passez ensuite le tout à travers un linge avec une forte expression. Remettez l'huile dans le chaudron bien nettoyé sur le feu ; melez y trois livres de saindoux et trois livres de suif de mouton ; et lorsque tout est bien fondu et bien chaud ajoutez-y peu-à-peu huit livres de litarge en poudre bien fine, en remuant toujours avec une palette de bois, pour que le litarge ne s'attache pas au fond du chaudron : laissez bouillir le tout à petit feu pendant une heure ; après quoi vous y ajouterez encore deux livres de cire jaune ; et vous continuerez à faire bouillir jusqu'à ce que la matiere soit d'une bonne consistance * : alors vous y tremperez de

la toile à demi usée, de huit pouces de large sur trente six de long, et vous en couperez de petites bandes en languettes, longues de sept pouces ; mais plus, ou moins large, suivant la grosseur des bougies que vous voulez faire. Une ligne de largeur donnera les bougies les plus fines, et ainsi de ligne en ligne jusqu'à quatre, qui sont les plus grosses, ayant toujours egard à l'épaisseur de la toile.

Vous raclerez les petites bandes avec le dos d'un couteau pour les rendre bien unies et bien lissées ; vous les plierez sous vos doigts comme un ourlet ; et vous les rouleriez sur une table bien unie avec une tablette de bois dur d'un demi pied de long, large de quatre pouces, et d'un demi-pouce d'épaisseur, jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient bien unies ; de sorte qu'en les passant entre les doigts ou ne sente aucune inégalité. Elles doivent être plus minces d'un bout que de l'autre, allant toujours en diminuant ; et il faut que le petit bout soit arrondi, de façon qu'en l'appliquant sur la joue il ne pique point ; alors les bougies sont faites, et on les garde étendus et séparées sur une planche,

* Il est très-essentiel qu'elle ne soit ni trop seche, ni trop molle : trop seche, la bougie se casseroit et blesseroit le malade ; trop molle, elle se replieroit sur elle-même, et entreroit difficilement.

jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient assez seches pour ne pas se coller l'une contre l'autre.

*Preparation des secondes, ou moyennes
Bougies.*

Prenez une partie de la composition dont il a été parlé ci-dessus, et deux parties de cire jaune, faites les fondre ensemble, en remuant toujours. Quand le tout est bouillant trempez-y votre toile comme aux premieres bougies; et coupez là en petites bandes pour en former des bougies moyennes.

*Preparation des troisiemes, ou petites
Bougies.*

Il faut prendre une partie de la premiere composition et quatre parties de cire jaune; et pour tout le reste, faire de même qu'aux premieres et secondes bougies.

ONGUENT ANTIGONORRHIQUE
POUR OINDRE LES BOUGIES DE
LA PREMIERE ESPECE, QUAND
ON VEUT EN FAIRE USAGE.

Cet onguent est composé de quatre onces de baume de copahu et de deux onces d'emplâtre de diapalme fondu au feu dans le baume. Ensuite il faut y ajouter une once de fiente de brebis bien fine, passée par un tamis, que vous melerez bien avec une spatule, jusqu'à ce que la matiere soit refroidie.

Les autres bougies se frotteront avec de l'huile seulement pour faciliter leur introduction sans quoi elles n'entreroient que difficilement et avec douleur.

Preparation des Pilules antiveneriennes qu'on fait prendre aux Malades quand les Bougies entrent aisément, et que les Obstacles sont levés.

Prenez du mercure doux,
—— de la poudre de jalap,
—— de l'escamonee,
—— de la gomme de gayac,

De chacune de ces drogues une once; faites en une masse avec ce qu'il faut de sirop de rose solutif; et formez en des pilules de cinq grains chacune, que les malades prendront tous les jours à la dose de deux ou trois pilules le soir en se couchant ou le matin en se levant; si le malade doit être purgé, il en prendra cinq à six suivant les indications et les temperamens.

A l'égard des pitifannes, elles doivent être adoucissantes et emollientes, legerement aperatives, preparées avec des fleurs de guimauve, de bouillon blanc, de pas d'âne, d'hypercon, et de feuilles de mauve, de parietaire et autres, toujours avec quelques grains de nitre purifié; le tout suivant les circonstances où se trouve le malade.

A la fin du traitement, on prend des eaux minerales ferrugineuses pendant huit à dix jours, à la dose de deux, trois, quatre livres dans une heure et demie; selon la qualité des eaux. C'est l'usage qui conduit dans ce cas là le medecin et le malade.

These outlines of M. Daran's practice will enable practitioners, not prepossessed in favour of caustic bougies,

bougies, so cruel in their application and so uncertain in their consequences, to adopt these mild modes of cure, which have been attended with every advantage, without the risk of the patient's life, or the production of more misery than was experienced by the strictures.

Sponge tents.

As sponge tents have been much neglected in England, and the freest use of the knife adopted in their stead, in many cases of fistulous sinuous ulcers, gun-shot wounds, and in all cases wherein counter-openings are to be preserved to promote a discharge to dependent parts, or to soften callosities in external openings of sinuous ulcers, &c. &c. it may be necessary to observe, that they are prepared in the following manner:

Fine pieces of sponge are to be first dried, then they are to be dipped in an unguent, composed of one third oil and two thirds yellow wax; or, if required softer, equal parts of oil and wax may be used. As the sponge, thus dipped, cools, it is to be placed in a press, or covered by a heavy weight between

two boards, and suffered to cool. When used, the sponge thus prepared is to be cut according to the size of the part for which it is to be used, and secured with thread or silk, lest when swelled and dilating the sinus of any ulcer, &c. it would with difficulty be extracted.

The medicaments to be used on the prepared sponge are *hydrargyrus nitratus ruber*, *pulvis sabinae*, or *antimonium tartarifatum*, according to the purposes for which they may be applied.

In all cases wherein only dilatation of the sinus is the object, the sponge tent alone will answer every purpose.

It should be recollected, that any cure effected by sponge tents requires patience and perseverance; or no curative effects need be expected. The knife may be more rapid in removing many diseased parts; but it is more cruel than the application of sponge tents. Surgery should adopt the mildest modes of treatment, wherever they may be practicable. Those who cure patients without cruel operations are to be preferred to those, who in most cases, however trivial, have recourse to the destructive scalpel*.

* When first I entered into the profession, and many years afterwards, it was the fashion to make large incisions in most cases, to cut out pieces of the integuments and diseased parts in abscesses, buboes, &c. and to dilate cruelly in gun-shot wounds. Sometimes large openings may be necessary, but in general not; and the surgeon who well comprehends the use of the seton, or Richter's *acus celatus*, will perform wonderful cures, frequently, without many of those barbarous methods, which, to the honour of the present most excellent artists, are daily meliorating, except in urethral strictures.

ON THE PRETENDED RADICAL CURE OF THE FOREGOING
AFFECTIONS OF THE URETHRA BY CAUSTIC BOUGIES;
WITH THE DANGEROUS AND FATAL CONSEQUENCES OF
THE PRACTICE.

ANY medical delusion, that has the air of novelty, however irrational in principle, or destructive in consequences, is sure of obtaining temporary admiration; not only from a certain class in the profession, but from the credulous and uninformed part of mankind in general. The former, as they should know better, are inexcusable, and deserve severe censure; the latter, as their errors arise from an ignorance in the art, merit pity and commiseration.

Amongst many wild projectors of the present day, none have produced more mischief than the patronisers and practisers of *causticated bougies*. The revival of this barbarous practice has been lately affirmed without hesitation, as a new invention; the grand invention and improvement of the late Mr. John Hunter. This assertion is the reverse of truth, as will clearly be proved by extracts from the writings of Ambrose Paré and different authors, for above two centuries. The severe animadversions that will appear on the subject from the most famous practical surgeons, and the most unequivocal proofs of the devastation and destruction of caustic bougies applied to the urethra, it is presumed, will deter all, but the proud, conceited, and obstinate, from ever repeating those acts of cruelty.—*Humanum est errare, sed in errore perseverare diabolicum*.—They have brought an indelible disgrace on that art, which should be always exercised, as much as possible, in the warmest acts of benevolence and humanity, instead of rash and wanton barbarity. The claim of the invention will not be eagerly disputed, when the manifold miseries resulting from it are well known. It will not be the ambitious cities of Greece wrangling for the honour of having given birth to Homer; but quite a different fame must the vain-glorious boasters adopt—the fame of that monster who, sooner than not appear singular for some great, extravagant, and wicked deed, fired the temple of Ephesus, and expired amidst the flames of his own creation, leaving a detestable reputation universally execrated by all posterity.

AUTHORS PRODUCED ON CAUSTIC OR CORROSIVE APPLICATIONS.

AMBROSE PARE.—This eminent practitioner believes that obstructions in the urethra were occasioned by a fungus remaining after ulceration from gonorrhœa. Vide lib. xviii. cap. xii. “His ut et reliquis ulceribus, accrescit aliquando caro superflua, quæ sæpè impedimento est quò minus semen et urinæ præterlabi et diffluere solità et communi sibi viâ possint, unde multorum malorum origo, &c.” He recommends equal parts of brandy and vinegar to be poured on an heated stone placed in a machine (like a cask), on which the patient is seated, so that the vapour may ascend to the perinæum, penis, &c. rubbing the affected parts with an emollient liniment and cataplasm; but if there be suspicion of a venereal taint, he recommends the usual remedies for that disease, applying also a mercurial ointment to the perinæum and penis, a bottle of warm water, or an heated brick covered with cloths, over which a mixture of brandy and vinegar is sprinkled, and says, “Remollitæ sic carunculæ remediis convenientibus sunt consumendæ.” If there be no discharge, a hollow catheter is to be introduced, through which a rough-pointed wire is made to pass; by this instrument the surface of the obstruction is rubbed off: a detergent powder, composed of pul. fabinæ, ochre, antimony, and^t tutty; or a plaster, with alum, verdegris, auripigmentum, and diachylon, is to be put on the end of a candela (bougie), applied to the part, and continued till the urine flows in a full stream: a ferrugineous astringent injection, or a bougie covered with desiccative ointment, is then used until the ulceration be perfectly healed.

ALFONSUS FERRIUS, a Neapolitan, who wrote about the year 1537, *De Caruncula sive Callo*, recommends emollient injections and liniments as preparatives; afterwards he says, “Convenit inter medicæ rei professores carunculam hanc sponte naturæ nullo modo, nulloque tempore sanari posse nisi beneficio artis adjuvetur: naturæ enim sponte augetur potius quam ulla ejus diminutio fiat, &c.” After the use of injection and liniments, a bougie (candelula), *partly covered*, smeared with a proper ointment, is to be introduced; he observes, “Sed illud præ oculis semper est habendum, ne erodentia medicamenta liquida, aut lenia unquam immittantur; majus enim detrimentum quam adjumentum sanis locis atque adjacentibus sequeretur; adeo etenim urinarii meatûs tenella substantia est; ut molestiora medicamenta qualia erodentia ferre non possit,” &c. *

* We find this anatomist and surgeon condemning the use of escharotics to the urethra, so early as 1537; consequently caustics must have been used before that time.

He divided the remedies into three classes, mild, stronger, and strongest: amongst the first are alum and pomegranate-shell united with a cerate of cerusse, or diachylon: amongst the remedies of the second order are found juice of squill, &c. &c. †

During the discharge of pus, after the application of these remedies, he recommends an emollient or detergent lotion, and observes, “Sunt qui in hisce lotionibus ad extremum remedium *argentum vivum mortificatum* dissolvant. ‘Quo, internis præcipuè partibus, me iudice, si ullo alio modo fieri possit omninò abstinendum est.’—In declinatione item candelæ aut plumbeum specillum aliquo unguento conglutinante aut cicatricem inducente immittendum est: veluti unguento de minio, de lithargyrio, plumbo,” &c.*

FORESTUS, one of the greatest practitioners in Europe, who was sent for to Leyden, and was first public professor, in his *Praxis Medicinæ*, judiciously recommends for *ariler urinæ*, laxatives, emollient and diuretic decoctions, refrigerants, and sometimes venæsection.

To remove excrescencies in the urethra, he advises *candelulæ ceræ* (bougies), with escharotic and deterfive ointments of verdegris, auripigmentum, alum, &c. And to the fistula in perinæo, deterfive lotions are to be applied. This great man, who was a much better physician than surgeon, liberated the people at Delft from the plague. He was born 1522, and died 1597. During his life he was one of the brightest ornaments of the profession; he lived esteemed, and died universally regretted.

SCULTEIUS.—In the *Armentarium Chirurgiæ* of Scultetus, published near one hundred and fifty years ago, are seen plates of the various instruments until that time used in every operation of surgery. *Tabula 40. fig. v.* an instrument used to apply remedies to obstructions

† Auripigmentum, or yellow arsenic, is a very sharp caustic, and is the principal ingredient in Plunket’s caustic for destroying cancerous indurations, &c.: it is very potent as an escharotic.

* This great man, teacher of anatomy at Rome, first surgeon to Pope Paul III. who was elected 1534, published *De Ligni Sancti multiplici Medicina et Vini Exhibitione Libri IV.* Basileæ 1538. The above extract is taken from another of his books, entitled, *De Carunculâ sive Callo*. The following extract is taken from *Dizionario Storico della Medicina*.

“Ferro (Alfonso) Napolitano. Dottor delle arti e della medicina. Insegnò nella sua patria la chirurgia; alcuni dicono ancora, che la esercitasse di poi in Roma, in qualità di primo cerusico di Paolo terzo Sovrano Pontefice eletto nel 1534. Per altro, Alfonso Ferro fu dotato di una mente penetrante e si era dato tutto allo studio delle buone lettere e della medicina. In Roma esercitò la natomia e con molto plauso la insegnò nel pubblico Liceo Romano; vede Mendosio in *Vitis Archiatri, Pontif.*”

in the urethra. "Non raro *caruncula ex ulcere in meatu urinario* oritur*, atque ita interdum augetur, ut urinam supprimat. Hæc manuali opere et idoneis medicamentis extirpatur, quæ erodendi vim obtinent; ne tamen aliæ partes quam sola *caruncula* in meatu erodantur, urinave medicamenta applicita profluens eluat. *Hieron Fabricius ab Aquapendente* excogitavit instrumentum, cujus beneficio nihil nisi *caruncula* exeditur, prohibeturque ne medicamentum *carunculæ* admotum ab urinâ, quæ sæpius excernitur, elui possit. Fit autem cannula (vide tabulam) G ex linteo, cerâ albâ oblinito (longitudine digiti transversî et latitudine eâ ut æquet argenteum catheterem I) quæ filum longum habeat appensum. Hæc cannula, prius tamen extra idoneo medicamento oblita sit ut,

R Mell. inciner. usti,
 Tutia præp.
 Butyri recent. in aq. plantag. loti,
 Terebinth. similiter lotæ,
 Ceræ flavæ ana ʒss,
 Aluminis usti ʒss.

"M. f. linimentum: quod crebra experientia teste, *carunculas* meatûs urinarii absque dolore et sanarum partium excoriatione consumit. Quidam experimentum Rochi Cervieri summis laudibus extollunt.

R Pulv. ♀ viv.
 Merc. præcipit.
 Viridis æris,
 Antim. crud. ana ʒiij,
 Ceræ albæ ʒj.

"Misce in mortario plumbeo ad formam unguenti. Cannula igitur medicamentorum uno oblinita, stylo extra fistulam argenteam prominenti H (vide tab.) adaptetur, atque una cum argentea fistula et stylo in urinarium canalem immittatur, donec occurrat *carunculæ*, et cum jam est in loco *carunculæ* argentea fistula cum suo stylo retrahatur, cannula verò, ex linteo cerâ inducto parata et immissa, relinquatur in meatu, ut per eam urina excernatur, quæ simul prohibet ne medicamentum *carunculæ* admotum ab urina elui possit."

WISEMAN.—This author, when treating of the ill consequences of a gonorrhœa, mentions obstructions in the urethra, for the cure of which he recommends laxatives, a cooling regimen, and wax candles (bougies), &c. the ends of which have a small quantity of plaster, composed of verdegris, auripigmentum, alum, &c. endeavouring to pass the obstruction: occasionally fomentations and emollient liniments to the perinæum.

* It may be observed, that obstructions in the urethra, for above one hundred years, were supposed to arise from fleshy excrescences; but dissections prove, that though these sometimes exist, yet they were not so frequently the cause as callous contractions from cicatrices, &c. &c.

“ But if, after the use of emollients, you cannot pass the caruncle, you may well conclude it callous. In which case you may pass a canula into the urethra to that caruncle, and whilst you hold that there steady, you may convey a grain of caustic into the canula, and press the caustic to it; and whilst you hold it there, you will perceive its operation by the pressing forward of the canula. The caruncle thus consumed, cast in a lenient injection daily; and if you take notice of his urine, you may see the separation of the sloughs, as rags in it: *after which*, you may, by the common medicated candles, wear away the remainder, and with injections cicatrize it. You must expect *a bleeding*, and it is not done without pain; the urethra being of exquisite sense, that pain sometimes accompanied with *rigor* and fever.”

It seems Wiseman likewise used verdegris, alum, red precipitate, auripigmentum, &c. or some of these medicaments levigated repeatedly in vinegar, reduced to a powder by exsiccation, and united to a plaster, which was applied in the common manner,

SAVIARD.—That great and excellent practitioner, chief surgeon to the *Hotel Dieu*, at Paris, has delivered two of the most horrid instances of the destructive effects of *caustic bougies* applied to the urethra by daring ignorance, that ever disgraced the art of surgery. These cases, and other proofs of a similar nature, deterred all learned, skilful, and humane surgeons from adopting this method for nearly a century. How it has happened, that the present race of causticators were not apprized of these facts, it is impossible to determine; for if they had, humanity would have saved many human victims, that are now daily sacrificed at the altars of daring and obstinate rashness.

SAVIARD'S CASES.

“ May 24, 1692, I was sent for to the suburbs of St. Anthony, to examine a person who had retention of urine, occasioned by a wax candle (bougie) being thrust into the penis, which he had purchased of an empiric, who boasted of his skill in curing carnosities.

“ The bougie, being armed with a strong caustic, had made a considerable eschar in the sphincter of the bladder, and much inflamed the canal of the urethra. A cystis was formed in the place of the eschar, wherein the urine fell, instead of passing by the natural channel to be discharged through the penis; however, I passed my catheter across the cystis, and thrust it into the bladder, in order to discharge the urine.

“ I perceived the blackness of the internal gangrene in perinæo through the integuments, notwithstanding; and the violence of the distemper induced me to desire a consultation to strengthen the design I had of performing the operation called a puncture in perinæo, to facilitate the application of medicines to the disorder; neither had I room to expect that I could
introduce

introduce my catheter into the bladder a second time with the same success I had done before.

“ Messrs. Bessiere and Marechal were called in ; who were of opinion, that, for the more speedy relief of the patient, whose bladder was distended by a large quantity of urine, it would be proper to introduce immediately a catheter to evacuate that excrement. But the putrefaction had made so great a progress, that the parts affected forming no canal, it was impossible, as I had before predicted, to pass my instrument beyond the cystis formed by the eschar, and consequently to evacuate more urine than was contained in that.

“ Nevertheless, the inflammation of the bladder, occasioned by burning the urethra, had communicated itself to the abdomen, which was perceptible by its violent and painful tension. The patient lost his strength, and all the hopes remaining depended on the success of this puncture. I performed it, in the presence of these gentlemen, upon the canulated probe introduced into that cavity, and then passed a small female catheter into the bladder by the incision I had made before, and repeated the introduction of it three or four times per day, to evacuate the urine during the life of the patient ; for the inflammation of the abdomen increased so fast, that shiverings, vomiting, and hiccup supervened, which were the forerunners of death.

“ A priest, of St. Genevieve des Ardents, came to the hospital at the same time, cruelly tormented by the effect of such another bougie ; but the accidents were so sudden and violent, that there was no time for relief, the poor ecclesiastic dying in twenty-four hours.”

These murderous effects of caustic bougies ought to be held out as a beacon to warn all future practitioners to avoid such shocking practices, for which the authors merited capital punishment, though they escaped with impunity.

It might, indeed, be urged as an excuse, that M. Daran's method of treating urethral obstructions was not known at that period ; but what excuse can the present destroyers of human life frame as a justification of their cruel, most cruel ! and often fatal projects ?

VERDUN published, in 1703, *Pathologie de Chirurgie*. After giving the practice of his time, similar to preceding authors, he says, that some practitioners even applied the actual burning red hot cauter, &c. His words are, “ Il y a des praticiens qui se servent d'un petit tuyau d'argent, qu'ils introduisent dans l'uretre jusqu'aupres de la verruë ; ensuite ils passent dans le tuyau une sonde un peu rouge pour servir de cauter ; on en touche legerement la verruë : mais cette operation est *fort douloureuse et difficile à executer*. Après ils font des injections avec de l'eau-rose, dans laquelle l'on a fait dissoudre un peu de vitriol, avec de la tuthie.”

Here is proof positive, that a sound, made nearly red-hot in fire, is passed through a tube to destroy the excrescence, and to serve as an actual cautery. Is it possible to conceive any application more irrational or barbarous? It is sufficient to make all human nature shudder at the cruelty of such surgery: well might the author say that the operation was very *painful and difficult to perform*. How lost to all sensibility must those have been who applied such a fiery remedy to so exquisitely sensible a part as the urethra!!!

ASRRUC.—It may, perhaps, be superfluous to bring forward the words of this great practitioner, after having so frequently mentioned his sentiments in other parts of the work; but it should be remembered, that he was the first person who collected the practice of every author before him, and gave a complete history of the venereal disease; he was well aware of the mischiefs produced by corrosives, first brought into practice by Alderet, professor of medicine at Salamanca in Spain, and afterwards used by most succeeding authors, as seen by the extracts from their writings in the preceding pages, until repeated and fatal experience compelled every rational practitioner to relinquish them *. It would be unnecessary to adduce the various arguments for the total abolition of the practice (*Traité des Maladies Veneriennes*, lib. 3. ch. iv.): he was, however, decidedly averse to the application of such violence, and says, “This method, which has been so long abandoned, and now only employed by ignorant empirics (*charlatans ignorans*), was succeeded by another, apparently preferable; but which has fallen into similar disuse,” &c. He then describes those cruel operations of cutting into the urethra, destroying the

* “Cette methode d’employer les corrosifs pour extirper les caroncles de l’urethre a été inventée et mise en œuvre pour la premiere fois par ALDERET, professeur en medecine de Salamanque et maitre d’Amatus Lusitanus, qui avoue l’avoir apprise de lui dans sa *Centurie*. 4. Curat 19.

“On dit qu’un certain *Philippe* Portugais, empirique, l’apprit ensuite d’Amatus tandis qu’en qualité de serviteur il lui aidait à panser un soldat, qui étoit fort malade des caroncles de l’urethre. Ce qu’il y a de certain c’est que ce même *Philippe* s’acquit de la reputation par cette pratique, suivant le temoignage d’*André Lacuna* dont sa *methode d’extirper les carnosités de l’urethre*, pag. 6. et qu’à Rome il guerit quantité de malades et entre autres Ferdinand de Cardonne, Almiralli de Naples, et Louis Caravajelle. Enfin *André Lacuna* dans son livre imprimé en 1551, publia cette methode qu’il dit lui avoir été depuis peu communiquée par ce *Philippe*, et dont il croyoit celui ci étoit l’inventeur. Mais au surplus cette methode étoit autrefois pratiquée tant par cet empirique François de Nation, qui florissoit à Venise vers l’an 1555, que par Godefroy Gjannati, autre empirique Italien, qu’on dit avoir guéri les carnosités de Charles IX. roi de France.”

cause

cause of obstruction, and healing the external wound, as particularly mentioned by Sharp in his Critical Inquiry.

M. COL DE VILARS, speaking of habitual strangury, mentions five modes of treatment, of which catheterics or corrosives are the first; the incision of the urethra the second; graduated bougies the third; the introduction of tents the fourth; sounds of lead, likewise graduated, the fifth.

"The first writers," says this learned author and great practitioner, page 222, "accuse excrescences as the only cause of this malady; they endeavour to consume them by the means of corrosives or caustics, which they introduce into the urethra with bougies; but these remedies *inflame, corrode, and ulcerate* the canal, and consequently augment the evil."

PALFYN.—"There are practitioners sufficiently rash, who attempt to open the passage of urine by means of bougies, armed with remedies that corrode and consume; but it happens that caustic rash remedies augment the dépôt and inflammation, and cause a total suppression of urine; but if these catheteric and consuming modes even succeed in opening the passage of urine, in causing a suppuration of the swellings or obstructions, and in cicatrizing the ulcers by other bougies, charged with desiccatives or drying remedies, and dilating the canal afterwards by graduated leaden probes, and which renders the passage of urine free; yet this succour and apparent relief is not always of *long duration*; for *new ulcers*, formed by the caustics or consuming remedies, will render the canal more susceptible of inflammation. If the patient be irregular, or contract a fresh gonorrhœa, the acrid urine causes *new swellings and obstructions* about the *multiplied cicatrices*, and the urine lodging, and having acquired a supreme degree of acrimony, excoriates and pierces the urethra, and reflowing on all sides, forms fistulous abscesses in different parts of the scrotum, &c. in a manner, that the urine passes out by these sinuosities, instead of the ordinary canal; and when these fistulous ulcers have remained a long time, they are *not curable*, except by making large incisions in the scrotum, in order to suppurate all the callosities, &c. How many miserable objects have lately suffered, and are suffering at this moment, not only in London, where they suppose the caustic practice is best conducted, but in different parts of the kingdom, and in all parts of Europe, wherever this rash caustic practice has lately prevailed?"

M. DE LA FAYE, who has illustrated Dionis's Surgical Lectures by copious and learned observations, when treating of operations about the parts of generation, admits excrescences in the urethra, contracted cicatrices, swelling of the prostate gland, amongst the most usual causes of impediments in discharging the urine; he notices the fatal effects of *caustics* applied to the urethra, as described by *Saviard*, and mentions the appearances observed by himself when dissecting persons, who were destroyed by

the practice, which he reprobates in the strongest language, and expresses astonishment that any persons *dare attempt such violence*, after the numerous attested facts of its destructive influence: *fistulous ulcers, mortification, and other alarming affections*, have been, says he, the *immediate consequence*. “ Il est étonnant après cela qu’on ose aujourd’hui se servir des moyens si dangereux. J’ai ouvert des cadavres de personnes qui avoient été traitées par cette methode, et j’y ai trouvé dans le tissu cellulaire de l’urèthre, des sinus de la longueur de deux pouces ou environ, et qui s’étendoit vers la glande prostate supérieure. J’ai remarqué que ces sinus rendoient du pus, qu’ils étoient calleux, parfaitement ronds et assez grands pour qu’on y pût introduire une bougie, et que leur ouverture étoit située au même endroit que obstacle qui avoit causé la retention d’urine ; ce qui prouve, que ces sinus étoient des fausses routes formées par les bougies chargées de caustiques, ou par les sondes tranchantes,” &c. &c.

DARAN, whose experience was superior, in obstructions of urine, to any other practitioner that ever existed, says, “ It is necessary to proscribe the practice of *caustics*, &c. as they inflame, excoriate, corrode, and ulcerate the urethra ; but they do worse mischief, for they act not always upon the *part* intended to be *consumed* ; and they *corrode and destroy sound parts* that we have an interest in *preserving*. I have seen destructive examples of this amongst patients, where the *caustic* has *left the excrescence* intended to be *consumed*, and hath produced in the neighbouring parts a *fistula*, with a considerable *loss of substance*, not only of the *canal*, but also of the membrane, which covers the cavernous bodies.”

After much more sensible reasoning, the skilful author says, “ J’ajouterai aux raisons solides qu’apporte M. Astruc pour prouver que, *loin de soulager* la strangurie, les *corroffs* ne peuvent que l’augmenter, que n’agissant qu’en produisant des irritations, ils doivent plutôt *rétrécir* le canal, qu’en procurer la *liberté*.”

Then follow many reasons, in conjunction, of Col de Vilars and Astruc, against the dreadful operation of laying open the urethra ; but our great surgeon Sharp and others have sufficiently reprobated that horrid cruel practice.

Leaden probes or sounds have broke in the urethra, a part of which made its way into the bladder, and formed the nucleus of a stone ; or the unfortunate patient has been obliged to submit to most cruel, sometimes fatal, operations for its extraction.

Mr. SAMUEL SHARP, late surgeon at Gny’s Hospital, whose great experience and correct judgment have universally been acknowledged by every learned and candid practitioner, in his Critical Inquiry into the present State of Surgery, one of the last productions of this truly great man,

man, after immense practice many years, amply treats of the diseases of the urethra and their cure.

After mentioning that obstructions of the urethra are mostly in consequence of gonorrhœa, he says, "The subject I am here treating of naturally leads me to the consideration of *strictures* in the *urethra*; and as the method of curing them by *suppurative bougies* is not yet generally understood, I shall inquire into the nature of their effects upon this disorder, and also into the nature of the disorder itself.

"But the suppurative power of certain bougies has been so often mentioned by preceding writers, that an unwary reader is apt to conclude, from this circumstance, there is no essential difference in *Daran's* method from that practised heretofore; but whoever will give a proper attention to what is written on this subject, will find that those who speak of suppurating bougies often confound them with escharotic bougies, and do not ascribe those wonderful effects to a continued suppuration, which *Daran* lays so much stress on, nor indeed speak of it with any great eulogium; nay, *Wiseman*, who seems to have given more histories of cures wrought by the bougie than any one except M. *Daran*, says, 'That if a flux of matter be brought on by the bougie, we must desist from the use of it, until the discharge be stopped by proper internal remedies.' In short, there is not one modern writer who does not advise the *urethra* to be laid open in order to destroy any stubborn obstructions, so little are they aware that by the constant application of a *gentle suppurative bougie*, they might at last be reduced and the passage opened.

"The several affections of the urinary and feminal parts, in which the bougies may be usefully employed, are, 1. The mere contraction of a portion of the *urethra*. 2. Ulcerations at the extremities of excretory ducts of the prostate gland, the vesiculæ feminales and the glands of the *urethra* yielding sometimes a plentiful, sometimes a small gleet. 3. Callos cicatrices of former ulcers. 4. Caruncles, called also carnosities and excrescences, which have arisen from the surfaces of former ulcers. 5. A scirrhus, or spongy enlargement of the verumontanum. 6. A scirrhus of the prostate or vesiculæ feminales. 7. A spongy enlargement of the *corpus spongiosum urethræ*."

Mr. Sharp then observes, that strictures of the *urethra* are sometimes many years before they are formed, and that the slightest obstruction may cause stranguries, suppressions of urine, and even fistulas in perinæo, which yield very soon to a proper bougie treatment.

He then takes a survey of the different methods of cure used in former and present practice, the disadvantages of wax-candles, leaden and whale-bone probes, application of a tent fastened by a piece of thread, as formerly described; the preference given by some practitioners to catgut bougies;

bougies; the danger of pressing, with violence, into the urethra, by which a perforation of the rectum has been occasioned: in fact, after enumerating the great advantages of suppurating bougies, which, he affirms, act partly by distension and partly by the discharge produced, he says,

“However, in all times there have been *enterprising men*, who have endeavoured, by *escharotic* applications at the extremity of their bougies, to make way through those obstructions which resist the bougie, or leaden probe; and, to say the truth, this practice has been *avowed* by the ablest surgeons of the two last centuries; but at present it is universally *condemned*, and, indeed, has been so almost ever since *Saviard's time*.— (See his cases.)

“The objections to the use of caustics were, the difficulty, and almost the impossibility of directing them so as to *eat* through all the diseased parts of the urethra, without *destroying* the sound part; the impracticability of preventing the urethra from *contracting* when it healed, as much, if not more than it was at the time of applying the escharotic: and lastly, the *pain* was so excruciating, and perhaps the application sometimes so *poisonous*, that an immediate mortification of the scrotum, penis, and bladder, was sometimes known to ensue; and upon these accounts, the use of escharotics seems to have been entirely rejected, and another kind of process has been established in their place, which in point of severity is nearly, if not quite, as exceptionable.”

He then describes the *cruel incisions in perinæo*, laying open the urethra in part, or along its whole extent, afterwards removing the obstructions by the knife, or escharotics, and healing the urethra upon a catheter: and again recurring to the evident superiority of medicated bougies, he says, “Perhaps it will be suggested, that if this (distension) be the principal action of the bougie, any kind of bougie distending the urethra and preventing the corrugation of the ulcer, will put it into a disposition of healing: but experience shows that every species of application is not suitable, some acting with much more innocence and benefit than others.” Again he says,

“Nevertheless, I would not be understood, by what I have here said, that it is only the consistence of the plaster, and not its medical virtues, that are to be considered: I have no doubt, that in most cases those virtues are necessary, though I am still of opinion that several of the plaster bougies formerly used, would, with assiduity, have cured some ulcers; but surgeons, hitherto, have had so little notion of stopping mere *gleets* by *bougies*, that I do not so much as meet with an insinuation of this practice.”

He then enters into a detail of the various causes of obstruction, mentions

tions the contradictory opinions of eminent men on the existence of caruncles, carnosities, or excrescences, and continues:

“ I believe it will seldom happen that caruncles are not accompanied with either a stricture, callous cicatrices, or protuberances of the *corpus spongiosum urethræ*, in which case the caruncles make only a part of the obstruction, and possibly may not be often bigger than the head of a pin; but those who have examined the urethra after death, expecting to find them of a considerable bulk, and not meeting with such, have, in all likelihood, frequently overlooked these small appearances (probably diminished also by death), and concluded there were no such things. That such small excrescences may occasion violent disorders in so tender an organ as the urethra, I have had occasion to see a notable instance in the urethra of a virgin, where they grew in a small quantity upon the orifice of the meatus urinarius, and for many months had produced the most excruciating torment, which continued till I had totally extirpated them.

“ Yet notwithstanding what has been so positively said, that *caruncles* have no existence but in the fancy, I have opened some urethras where they were evident. In one I found, near the verumontanum, a filament running across the urethra, which had obstructed the entrance of the catheter, and the patient died of a suppression of urine. In another I found small filaments, some loose, and one three quarters of an inch long, attached at both ends to the urethra, but running in the direction of the canal. In a third, besides the contraction, I found a small excrescence, not unlike one of the *tricuspid valves of the heart*; which, with the instances I could produce from others, prove that the doctrine of *caruncles* is not without foundation.”

Our ingenious author then enumerates a fungous enlargement or tumefaction of the *corpus spongiosum urethræ* amongst the causes of urethral obstruction, and compares it with a distension of the pituitary membrane of the nose, which he has seen *swell* and *expand* so much, as entirely to shut up the nostrils: in such tumefaction of the urethra he recommends bougies, and observes, “ The good effects wrought upon it by the bougies will not be difficult to account for; since a continual discharge from a loaded tumefied part seems a very natural means for reducing the tumour.” Again he says,

“ One of the chief ends proposed by the bougie being to procure a discharge from the ulcers and the lacunæ of the urethra; the composition must not be of an *astringent* nature, as is evident from the effects of *astringent injections*. Desiccative plasters are a kind of *astringent*, and by checking the discharge, which would be brought on by their irritation, the urethra becomes inflamed, and renders their action of no effect; be-

sides that generally, through want of a proper degree of suppuration, their continuance in the urethra for a sufficient length of time is insupportable.

“To obviate any liability to inflammatory disorders of the urethra, or genital parts, it is of great importance that the patient should live temperately, and even enter into a cooling regimen during the treatment.

“It would surprise any body, not acquainted with these cases, to see what *monstrous tumours* subside, and what *foul fistulas* digest and heal, from the mere opening of the urethra, and the proper treatment of the obstructions,” &c. When speaking of manual operations about these parts for fistulæ, obstructions, &c. he says,

“But in all the examples where cutting appears necessary, I believe it will be judicious, first to make a passage, if possible, into the bladder, and wait the issue of that process, before any operation be performed; because, as I have already intimated, the effects of opening the canal are sometimes very wonderful, and will often spare the knife.”

Thus have we endeavoured to illustrate the practice of this great man, chiefly, by adducing his own words, and it must appear evident that his leading principles were not merely a wedge-like compression, but a mixed treatment, “*partly by compression and partly by suppuration.*” Without violence, dreadful operations were by such means generally obviated. The immense practice of Mr. Sharp, united with his accurate knowledge of the structure and functions of the affected parts, his clear and unaffected manner of writing, totally void of ambiguity and evasion, his well-known integrity and professional eminence, place his assertions beyond the reach of envious or interested detraction. But why this eulogium? why this defence of a practice, of which every unbiassed practitioner, who has had frequent opportunities of observing with attention, must approve? In fact, every well-informed surgeon will allow that there is a broad medium between the simple dilatation or distension of a part and its total destruction by caustic. Can any man dare to assert, that if wax and oil, in form of a bougie, will not remove a stricture, nothing will succeed but lunar caustic? But facts, thousands of well-authenticated, incontrovertible facts, in this and other countries, prove the superior efficacy of medicated bougies in urethral obstructions.

HEISTER.—This most excellent of modern surgeons, professor of surgery and physic at Altdorff and Helmstadt, author of the most complete system of surgery ever published, after a practice of near fifty years, mentions the mischievous effects of caustics (*rodentia*) in urethral obstructions, and says, “*Medicamenta rodentia prorsus hic inania, quin potius noxia sunt; e contrario, ubi difficultas reddendæ urinæ ab ulcere, vel cicatrice in urethra vel in inflammatione ejus, specillis plumbeis vel cereis, oleo inunctis curatio optime obtinebitur.*” By this we find he reprobates

reprobates the use of violent corrosive methods, and affirms that such diseases are curable by a milder treatment.

LE DRAN, F. R. S. and late senior surgeon of La Charité at Paris, in his *Operations in Surgery*, when speaking of obstruction in the urethra inducing *fistulæ in perinæo*, &c. says, "The only means to prevent this is by softening the callosities, bringing the ulcer to suppurate, enlarging the canal, and, in a word, by removing the original cause of the disease.

"All these intentions may frequently be answered by the use of bougies armed with medicines, agreeable to the state of the disorder, and carefully introduced through the *urethra* into the bladder. The medicines made use of on these occasions should by no means be irritating; and, for this reason, I should absolutely reject the use of any caustic introduced into the urethra, on pretence of destroying the excrescences, since, as I have learned from experience, they serve only to eat into the canal."

Mr. JESSE FOOT.—This gentleman has given public lectures on the venereal disease and its consequences, and written a criticism on the new doctrines and opinions of the late Mr. John Hunter: he has treated the subject with much justice, but rather ironically. When speaking of strictures in the urethra, their history, former and present method of cure, he laments the contradictory opinions of authors on the affection, from 1550 to 1786, although the general mode of cure was not materially altered by their various conjectures of its cause; he attacks with becoming fortitude the daring assertion of Mr. Hunter, that dilatation or ulceration by the simple bougie, and destruction by lunar caustic, were the only means of removing stricture; and says, "I have perused the whole of the Professor's (Mr. Hunter's) chapter on the treatment of the permanent stricture, and I find that one of these weak bougies is the only remedy the Professor makes use of to cure the stricture by dilatation; but if this fails, the mode of cure by dilatation is to be abandoned, and his ulcerative method, or rather his method by escharotics, are to come next into play."

He then mentions a process by which strictures are removed, and says modern practice is not justified in the use of such violent and dangerous resources as caustic, without a trial of milder methods: but let him speak for himself: "Has the Professor never heard of catgut bougies being in use? Has he never heard it hinted that they had a preference on many accounts to the feeble slender bougies which he recommends? Has the Professor never read any authors who have recommended them? Does not he know that they are now brought into general practice from their preferable advantages? If he has not heard of them, he is yet to be informed. If he has heard of them, he has abused his readers by his contemptuous silence. And if he does not know of their application, and more certain success in overcoming the most contracted strictures,

he has yet to learn what the whole body of surgeons are already acquainted with."

Mr. Foot coincides in sentiment with those truly great practitioners, Le Dran, Astruc, Saviard, and Sharp, in lamenting the excessive danger of caustic acting on parts excluded from our sight, and perhaps destroying such as did not conduce to the removal of the obstruction; and observes, "The most eminent of the profession that had last written upon the subject execrated the idea, and flung it out of practice."

He then severely attacks Mr. Hunter on the arrogance of assuming the discovery of applying caustic to the urethra, in 1752, which had been mentioned, particularly by Wiseman, above fifty years before, and by most succeeding authors, especially Sharp in his *Critical Inquiry*, published 1750, in which diseases of the urethra and their cure occupy near one hundred pages, and concludes the observation by a very appropriate quotation from Johnson: "Even a man, whose genius qualifies him for great undertakings, must be content to learn, at least, from books the present state of human knowledge; that he may not ascribe to himself the invention of arts generally known, weary his attention with experiments, of which the event has been long registered, and waste in attempts that have already succeeded or miscarried, that time which might have been spent with usefulness and honour upon new undertakings."

In Mr. Foot's quarto volume, page 302 & seq. he mentions the inefficacy of caustic, and says, "I myself know but of very few instances where caustic, if it could be applied safely, and if it could be brought to act on the intended parts, can effect a cure. *When the urethra is thickened for some length, that cannot be said to be a case for caustic. When the prostate gland is diseased, that cannot be said to be a case fitting for caustic. When there is an ulcer formed near the neck of the bladder, the caustic would only precipitate the danger of it. When the glands in general throughout the urethra are scrophulously affected, and when the lacunæ of them are diseased, in such cases caustic could do no good.* It must appear very strange, and the importance of some must be not a little sunk, when it is considered that this application of caustic is recommended indiscriminately by them in every stricture that offers within the urethra."

M. TEYTAUD, now in full practice at Paris.—This is one of the most modern authors who has written on gonorrhœa and its consequences, as urethral obstructions, &c. He has, by actual dissection, found ulcers of various size, with callous edges, fungus in the urethra, cicatrices of former ulcers, and contractions impeding the free passage of the urine.

Not to enter too minutely into the treatment of every affection irrelevant to the present subject; his practice in cases of stricture shall only be noticed.

After animadverting on the variety of causes that may produce urethral obstruction, he observes, that they are curable by proper bougies: he, at first, embraced the doctrine of mechanical distension, by simple bougies, being alone necessary; but he frankly confesses that, from repeated failures, in a variety of cases, he became fully convinced that their *composition* should be *various* according to the affection.

He then observes, that the success of this practice has been clearly proved under the inspection of M. M. De Horne, Doublet, Thouret, and Jeanroy, who were appointed to observe the effect produced by his bougies. To prevent any odium of empiricism, and to prove the truth of his assertions, he has published every formula of remedies used in the cure of these complaints *.

Mr. BENJAMIN BELL.—This surgeon has written on the gonorrhœa and its consequent affections; he severely animadverts on the mischievous effects of caustic, affirms that it seldom or never answers the purpose for which it is applied, and observes, “This practice prevailed upwards of an hundred years ago, but, being both *hazardous and uncertain*, it appears soon to have been relinquished. It has lately, however, been revived, or rather an attempt has been made for reviving it, by the late Mr. Hunter, of London, and still more lately by Mr. Home. But as I consider the practice attended with danger, and not likely often to answer the purpose, I shall briefly state what leads me to form this opinion, &c.

“The introduction of caustic into the urethra must prove hazardous from two circumstances; our not being able, even with all the pains we can take, to apply it to the *stricture alone*, without injuring the *contiguous part* of the urethra; and the risk there must always be of some small portion of the caustic breaking off and resting in the passage.

“On these accounts it would appear, that, for the removal of strictures in the urethra, the application of caustic is either *unnecessary*, or in a very considerable degree *unsafe*, and at the same time of very uncertain effect. In other parts of the body, we all know how difficult it is to remove even the callous edges of an ulcer with caustic; nay, that *new parts* seem often to form below, before the eschar produced by a previous application of the caustic has come off. I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying, that in similar affections of the urethra, proceeding to the extent which we here suppose them to have done, caustic would be altogether inadequate for the purpose, or that it must be applied in such quantities as to be productive of *much hazard*.”

* For which his work in French, lately published, may be referred to.

ON THE METHODS OF TREATING THE RAVAGING EFFECTS
OF CAUSTICS APPLIED TO THE URETHRA.

NUMEROUS instances lately have proved, not only the inefficacy of caustics to remove obstructions of the urethra; but likewise many additional injuries to that canal, which did not exist before the caustic was applied, and which were the evident effects of escharotics. 1. Violent acute pains. 2. Inflammation of the urethra, prostate, and bladder. 3. Elevation of the destroyed part, eschar, or slough. 4. Hæmorrhage, or profuse bleedings. 5. Deposition of urine in the cells of the cellular structure of the perinæum, scrotum, or penis. 6. Abscesses. 7. Ulcers often incurable. 8. Total suppression of urine from thickened membranes. 9. Mortification. 10. The most painful death.

DREADFUL PAINS THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF THE CAUSTIC.

Insensible must that man be to human misery, who could think of applying escharotics to a part as exquisite in sensibility as the eye itself; in a part hid from human sight, and where no defensive plaster could be applied to limit the burning effects of the remedy. The first effect is torturing pain. This must be submitted to repeatedly, as long as the urethral causticator thinks it necessary to repeat his cruel application, which I have known to be used above two hundred times in the course of some months, to the injury of parts, without the desired effect. The destruction of the nervous expansion in the urethra has destroyed, in some instances, the exquisite sensibility of that canal, on which some artists have pretended that the urethra is not so sensible as supposed. How can it be sensible, when the cause of sensibility is destroyed?

ESCHAR, AND ITS SEPARATIONS.

Every person who comprehends the action of caustic on living human substances, must remember that the first effect is the destruction of the part, in certain degrees, on which it operates; the second is the elevation, loosening, and separation of the eschar. This always takes up a few days, and, in the urethra, very often obstructs the passage of urine. This the artists remove by passing a moderate sized bougie with some considerable force: hæmorrhage often follows this forcing off the slough, and all these effects must be produced in succession, more or less, as often as the corroding caustic is repeated. A sanious discharge to a considerable degree is the consequence, and ulceration, more or less deep, in proportion

tion as the caustic has acted in a greater or less degree, which cannot *a priori* be ascertained by any causticator or human being whatever. An *ulcer*, then, produced by the caustic, superficial, deep, or extended, must be the first prospect of cure; a larger bougie then can be passed, and the urine issues more freely through, with smarting and pain. How can any reflecting person expect the ulcer produced by art, namely, by the destructive caustic, to be easier to heal, than the ulcer arising from abscess, excoriation, &c. about the verumontanum, prostate gland, neck of the bladder, &c.? From the passing of urine, every ulcer in the urethra is *difficult* of cure; which is well known to all experienced and candid practitioners. What charm may induce ulcers produced by a *caustic* to be less difficult of cure, than those which happen *without caustic*, would be very difficult for even the causticators to determine. Facts, however, declare the truth, which causticators conceal; for no art, however sublime, has yet been discovered to effectually cure these ulcers, the remains of rash escharotic applications, which frequently impede the urine, and render patients, through pain, more miserable than before the caustic was applied: many instances of which, with additional callosities in the urethra, in London, are striking examples, at this present moment.

HÆMORRHAGE, OR PROFUSE BLEEDING.

The profuse bleeding attending the application of the caustic has, in some instances, proved fatal, which many surgeons in this metropolis have been witnesses of: in other cases, nausea, extreme coldness and faintings, have been the consequence of profuse effusions of blood. When the bleeding has stopped, the urethra has been so filled with coagulated blood, that the urine has been *totally suppressed*, and with the greatest difficulty drawn off by a catheter; which operation, however carefully performed, has produced *fresh* hæmorrhage.

In which case the surgeon must proceed according to circumstances, carefully avoiding the caustic practice, that has produced such a dangerous disaster where no hæmorrhage pre-existed. Cold bathing the parts, tincture of roses and opiates, judiciously applied, are the best remedies, &c.

INFLAMMATION.

Great inflammation sometimes succeeds the caustic, by which the passage, formerly slightly obstructed, is almost obliterated by a thickening of the membranes lining the urethra. Warm bathing long repeated, bleeding, cooling cathartics and clysters, nitre and camphor, are expedient. There are instances on record, where rash surgeons have attempted with repeated caustics to burn a passage through the obliterated urethra; and this project, so replete with barbarity, as might be reasonably expected
by

by every judicious and reflecting man, after horrid torments, has killed the miserable patient.

If bougies, catgut or others, be applied in these cases, the greatest caution and skill are requisite; or if passing the catheter be attempted, great care should be observed, that very little or no force should be used, lest a new opening be made into the bladder, which I have known to happen, and it proved fatal. Oleaginous remedies, with nitre, peniluvium of emollients and opiates, mucilaginous refrigerant drinks, &c. &c. are to be administered.

DEPOSITIONS OF URINE OR FLUID IN THE CELLULAR STRUCTURE OF THE PERINEUM, SCROTUM, OR PENIS.

The *burning precarious* caustic, sometimes instead of acting only on what may be supposed the cause of stricture, forms a deeper eschar than the skilfullest artist intended. Urine, instead of passing through the urethral canal, forms depositions in the cellular structure of the above-recited parts, occasioning violent inflammations, enormous swellings and distensions, threatening mortification, and which in some instances terminate fatally by gangrene.

In such desperate affections, it is difficult to give written directions; for the diversity of cases requires dissimilar treatment, according to circumstances. The urine should be led, if possible, through the urethra by preserving a flexible catheter through the neck of the bladder, that the urine as it issues may not deposit that acrid irritating fluid in the cellular parts. Sometimes all efforts are fruitless; in which case the art must submit; but the patient miserably perishes.

ABSCESSÈS AND ULCERS.

Abscesses form in the passage in different parts near the verumontanum, prostate, neck of the bladder. A total suppression of urine is the consequence; which, notwithstanding the skilfullest treatment, proves fatal. Operations in this case are sometimes necessary, which should be submitted to the consideration of judicious surgeons. In desperate diseases desperate remedies are sometimes to be applied, after humanely apprizing the patient and friends of the pressing danger.

ULCERS.

Ulcers succeed the use of the caustic, incurable ulcers, where none before existed.

In these cases, the use of the methods already recommended may be sometimes, though not always, useful. Two cases shall here be produced, amongst many more that might be added; which may prove a lesson

lesson of caution to the causticators, and perhaps may deter the afflicted from suffering such dangerous experiments on some of the most exquisitely sensible parts of the human body.

Case.

An officer had experienced frequent gonorrhœa; in some he suffered the use of astringent injections, by the advice of a celebrated though rash surgeon. A long time he felt no ill effects; but as he advanced in life, the urine in its passage was obstructed, with an evacuation of mucus. I recommended mucilaginous and oleous remedies; and occasionally, in case of temporary obstruction, to pass a bougie. The patient, pursuing his pleasures and free living, would not submit to any regular plan of cure. In this manner he proceeded some years without any great inconvenience. In the spring of 1799 I was again consulted; and on examining the urine, instead of mucus I perceived a greenish-coloured purulent pus, fetid in smell and disagreeable to the sight. This was accompanied every morning, on waking, with an obstruction of urine, which could not be removed without the introduction of a bougie.

On examining the case accurately, I discovered the ulcer was near the verumontanum. Through an ivory tube, the end of which came as near as possible to the part affected, was injected a small quantity of *lotio penetrans*, in order, if possible, to deterge the foul ulcer. A dry regimen was recommended, and innocent mucilaginous diet. Internally was taken *solutio antimonialis mercurialis* in decoction of sarsaparilla; which greatly assists the cure of most evil ulcers. The patient continued the plan for three weeks; the pus amended in quality and diminished in quantity. The patient was much relieved. Wishing to expedite the cure, a grain more of the hydrarg. muriat. was added to eight ounces of the *solutio penetrans*, but this the urethra of the patient could not bear. *One grain to eight ounces* of water was all that could be admitted. This plan succeeded in rendering all the symptoms better; and the pus very much diminishing, so as to be very little in quantity, to three ounces of *oleum amygdalarum* was added one dram of *extractum saturni*, and conveyed to the part affected in the urethra. This answered well, and little appearance of ulcer remained; but still mucus issues with urine, which I have reason to conclude will continue through the remainder of the patient's life. Some time after this, I was informed by the attendant surgeon, that the patient had been persuaded to have *caustic bougies* applied, as a radical cure for his complaint; instead of which the ulcer was produced in the urethra, where no such disease was before. A friend of this gentleman's lost his life by the *caustic bougie* practice, which so alarmed the officer, that he

refused

resisted all further persuasion to have it introduced; or he might have shared the fate of his more credulous friend.

Case where the Caustic was applied above one hundred Times.

A respectable tradesman, who had been treated by astringent injections above ten years since, soon after found a stricture in the urethra, which he occasionally removed by a common bougie; being too irritable to undergo a proper course. Lately this patient applied for my opinion again, when, on examining, I perceived the whole flap of the shirt stiffened like buckram, and covered with purulent pus and sanies. The evacuation of urine was greatly impeded, and on every expulsoy effort, violent agonizing pains were experienced. The patient said he had been nearly *two years under a caustic bougie course*, that he had suffered the caustic bougie to be applied between one and two hundred times. Every time he experienced the most exquisite pain and misery, and at times *much blood* issued. In this manner he continued suffering torture, whilst the causticating artist confidently promised him a certain cure in the end. The reverse, after this repeated misery, pain, and treatment, was the consequence. Every day there is such a purulent and sanious stinking discharge issuing from the ulcers, as to be horrid to behold. I requested my neighbour, Mr. Kerrison, formerly my pupil at the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, to pass a bougie. He found three obstructions in the neighbourhood of the verumontanum, prostate, and neck of the bladder, which twisted the point of the bougie into a spiral form, something similar to a corkscrew. I declared the case to be incurable; but he might try medicated bougies with Daran's unguent, which Mr. Kerrison applied repeatedly. The misery of this unfortunate patient is beyond description horrid. There is little probability of relief, or even a palliation, during the remainder of his life, and indeed *death* under such distressing circumstances must be considered the greatest consolation. The shocking *tortures* this unfortunate feels is nearly sufficient to make him commit suicide as the most certain means of relief.

MORTIFICATION AND DREADFULLY PAINFUL DEATH.

Dissections *post mortem* prove, that where gangrenes have happened from the effects of caustics administered to the urethra, they are frequently different from the symptoms common to other mortifications. In other gangrenes a cessation of pain accompanies mortification; and though it may be the forerunner of death, yet pain diminishes in proportion as the gangrene advances in its road to fatality. This may be observed in mortification of the intestines and many other parts; where syncope, cold
sweats

sweats without pain, are the concomitants; the patient is frequently sensible to the last, and with a mind but a moment before perfectly correct, dies! On the contrary, when a mortification, succeeding caustics applied to the urethra, commences and proceeds, the unfortunate patient is in violent agonies; nothing but piercing cries, groans, and shocking lamentations are heard; not only whilst the affected retain their senses, but apparently after all the mental powers are abolished. By the mournful and tristful tones, short breathings, and miserable gesticulations, every reflecting spectator of the tragic scene must be struck with conviction of the internal and distracting sensations; and this often continues until the last breath, before the wretched patient expires.

These are a few of the deleterious consequences of caustics. The abolition of the sublimest pleasure which man enjoys by the act of coition, and the incapability of procreating the human species, from impotence in the ejaculation of semen, are trifles light as air in comparison to the torments already described.

REASONING ON THE INJURY DONE TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE GENITAL PARTS, BY INJECTIONS, CAUSTICS, &c.

The experience of the most learned physicians and celebrated surgeons in Europe has been produced, in direct opposition to many prevailing prejudices. Facts are innumerable; but it may be necessary, in additional confirmation of the importance of a speedy change of practice, to reason professionally, from the anatomical structure of the parts, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, on the objectionable doctrines, that have been productive of the various disasters already enumerated.

The semen masculinum, or male seed, is first formed in the TESTICLES, then repositied in the VESICULÆ SEMINALES or seminal vesicles, afterwards powerfully emitted with a projectile force, from the canal of the penis or yard, into the uterus or womb; where it renders the female ovum prolific*.

The testicles may in vain secrete or form seed if any impediment prevent its free egress through the ducts or canals of the seminal vesicles, placed in the *urethra*. The astringent injections, or destructive caustics, frequently injure or destroy the action of the seminal vesicles; hence an incurable impotence, by prevention of the semen passing from the vesicles into the urethra.

* Those who would comprehend these and other functions, the structure and uses of all parts concerned, may consult the sixty-fifth copper-plate engraving in my *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*, in Latin, or in the English translation of that work; where every part of the male and female parts of generation is delineated.

The ERECTION of the penis must be complete. The EJACULATION OF SEMEN should be vigorously performed, *and depends on many circumstances* †.

The exquisite pleasures of love and the procreation of the human species must ever be considered of the utmost importance to human

† Some of the necessary powers of erection and projectile force with which the semen should be ejaculated, are contained in the following quotation from the great and immortal Haller, page 184, paragraph DCCCXL. &c.

“ A long-continued and violent erection is at last joined commonly with an expulsion of the semen; and this requires much greater force than is requisite for the erection only. For the semen follows at that time when the irritation of the nerves is arrived at its greatest height: and in natural venery indeed, when at length the cellular spaces of the urethra and its continuous glands, which are at last filled, become so far distended with a large quantity of warm blood, that the nervous papillæ, stretched out in the latter, become violently affected from the irritating or pleasing cause; the seminal vesicles are emptied by the levator muscles of the anus, which press them against the resisting bladder with a convulsive motion, excited either by a voluptuous imagination, or from the pruritus that is exquisite in the nerves of the glans, principally in its lower part, which is in the neighbourhood of the frenum. Hence the semen is never discharged with any of the urine, in an healthy man; because the expulsion of it requires the bladder to be closed or drawn up firmly together; for, while lax, it affords little or no resistance to the seminal vesicles. The transverse muscles seem to dilate the canal of the urethra for the reception of the semen expressed from the vesicles.

“ Soon afterwards the powers constringing the urethra are, from the irritation of the very sensible fabric of that canal, put into action. To this constriction conduces principally the accelerator, which makes a powerful concussion of the bulb and adjacent part of the urethra, so as to propel the contents more swiftly, in proportion as the bulb has a larger diameter than that of the urethra. But that this may act firmly, the sphincter of the anus, together with that of the bladder, must be well shut. The accelerator muscle seems also principally concerned in the erection, by compressing the veins of the corpus cavernosum of the urethra. At the same time the *erectores penis*, as they are called, arising from the tubercles of the ischium, become strong, and are inserted into the cavernous bodies, sustaining the penis as a sort of medium betwixt the transverse and perpendicular direction. Thus the semen is drove into the vagina, and into the uterus itself, in a prolific coition: the whole action of which is very impetuous, and comes near to a convulsion; whence it wonderfully weakens the habit, and greatly injures the whole nervous system, as the maladies arising from thence seem to indicate, its consequence of the affection of the nerves, without which the semen cannot be expelled.”

society. All the diseases of the urethra enumerated consequent to astringent injections and caustic bougies, beside the misery produced, not only impede the *act* of coition and the free discharge of *semen*, but render the express order of the Divine Being abortive, which is, INCREASE AND MULTIPLY. The injectors and causticators effectually oppose this divine ordinance.

Neither the complete ERECTION of the penis nor the ejaculation of semen can be performed with vigour or perfection, if strictures, excrescences, callosities, or ulcers, from astringent injections, or the effects of burning caustics, prevent the direct erection of the penis, or the free projectile force, and strong ejection of the seed in the act of coition. The penis will, in many of those diseases, be CURVED instead of straight; hence other actual causes of impotence, and an impossibility of procreating the human species.

The semen, in such complaints, if it pass from the seed vesicles, DRIBBLES through the urethra, accompanied sometimes with purulent matter, or is very faintly ejected, so as not to be perceived by the female, to the great disappointment of the pleasures of love to both parties. Amorous efforts are attempted, but without fruition.

If the NECK of the BLADDER, *prostate*, *verumontanum*, or any other parts of the urethra, be swelled, or the membranes even thickened, or contracted, so as to obstruct the *free spouting* of seed in its passage, diminishing the natural, healthful, and powerful force, or the muscles erecting the penis, or concerned in the ejaculation of semen, be diminished in their action by tumours, &c. procreation is destroyed. Behold some of the principal causes of impotence! Behold the destructive effects of astringents and caustics, which, besides all other painful and dangerous evils, destroy the powers of generating our species!

THE RUNNING OF A CLAP, AND THE DISCHARGE FROM THE NOSE IN A COLD, QUITE DIFFERENT.

Another subterfuge of the defenders of astringent injections is, the specious assertion, that the INFECTIOUS VENEREAL EFFLUX from the URETHRA is similar to a CATARRH, CORYZA, or what is vulgarly called a common COLD.

How any strange conceit should enter into an hypotheticalal brain is not wonderful; but how any sedate sober-minded practitioner in the learned profession of physic, or surgery, should countenance such a deception, is truly astonishing!

The dissimilarity of the causes and effects of the discharge of a common cold and a clap is so striking, that the slightest glance of the eye must discover

discover it; therefore it requires very little reflection or examination to ascertain the absolute difference.

Is the discharge from catarrh, cold, &c. infectious? Will it communicate the same disorder, a cold, by contact to any other person? Do people with colds, give colds to their wives or neighbours? Is there no difference between the inflammation and efflux from the mucal urethral glands arising from venereal poison, and that innocent excretion arising in the pituitary membrane of the nose, from sudden cold, &c.? Where is the similarity of these two widely different fluids? Does not the checked running in a clap produce swelled testicles, and are not the various parts of the body often contaminated by the absorption of venereal infection? Do not, at times, all the various symptoms of the confirmed *lues venerea* originate from urethral and chancreous venereal infection? Where then is the analogy between the running of a clap and the sneezing and running of the nose from a cold? Is it not a sophistical argument held out to deceive the unwary? Does the catarrh or cold produce obstructions in the urinary passages, pocky eruptions, tophs, nodes, nocturnal excruciating pains, venereal ulcers in the throat or palate, the loss of the nose, rotten bones, and all the other venereal infectious evils related in the foregoing part of the treatise?

To give a greater latitude to fair reasoning, it would not be difficult to prove, that few local disorders ever exist in the human body. Are there any real diseases, that do not excite ungrateful sensations in the body? The part, therefore, where the disorder may be fixed, must include nervous sensibility, sympathy, and nervous intelligence to the brain, or common sensorium. If the nervous system be irritated by pain, inflammation, heat of urine, venereal strangury, or any other cause, a disorder of a part cannot alone exist, when other parts composing the human body are sensibly affected. There are, therefore, very few disorders that can be called LOCAL, for there are very few which do not occasion ungrateful sensations in the nerves, fever, and mental disquietude, &c.

IF DISEASES BE SIMILAR IN LOCALITY AND CAUSES, THEY SHOULD
BE CURED IN THE SAME MODE.

As the injectors insinuate, that the common affection of a cold irritating the mucal glands of the nose, bronchia, &c. and causing an increase of mucal discharge, is so similar to a virulent infectious efflux from the urethra; why do they use astringents? If any practitioner injected the nose with solutions of vitriol, or gave styptics in a catarrh, he would be thought mad; for he might injure the afflicted. Do not the injectors use those very compositions? As the object of checking a discharge from the mucal glands in the urethra in venereal cases is so much insisted on; if there

there were any similarity in the catarrh, it must be equally necessary in that common cold. "LOCAL diseases," say these sages, "ONLY REQUIRE LOCAL REMEDIES; and the clap, is as innocent as an efflux of a cold from the nose or throat, and perfectly similar." The *innocence* of urethral venereal infection has been fully proved to be frequently terribly noxious, and destructive in consequences, from the poisonous infection; it remains for the injectors to prove the same of catarrh before they confirm any similitude in such opposite diseases.

WHETHER LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRE TOPICAL OR LOCAL
REMEDIES.

In the therapeutic part, false principles are received as true. It is said in defence of astringent injections, caustic bougies, or caustics applied to chancres, that LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRE LOCAL REMEDIES.

The inflammation of the conjunctive membrane of the eye is strictly a local disease, evident to the sight, and not hidden like the venereal *infectious* inflammation of the urethra called clap. Three species, amongst many others, may be mentioned: the most violent, called chemosis, the venereal, and the intermittent. Will local applications cure these diseases? Are not the most powerful evacuations of bleeding, cupping, saline cathartics, and antiphlogistics, abstinence, &c. absolutely necessary in the first? Will any remedies but mercurial antivenereals cure the second? Can the third be removed without bark, vitriolic acid, with preparations of zinc, &c. ? Whoever attempted their cure without internal proper remedies, as well as appropriate external fomentations, &c. would be stigmatized as ignorant, and must be the cause of blindness in proportion to the extension of practice *.

Inflammations of various other parts, contusions, different species of ulcers, although strictly LOCAL, frequently require the most efficacious internal remedies, according to various causes. The proposition, therefore, of LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRING LOCAL REMEDIES, is inadmissible in practice, however plausible it may appear in whimsical and false hypothesis.

Besides, the injectors and causticators of chancres contradict their own hypothesis by their practice. Venereal ulcers in the throat, palate, nose, topes, or nodes on the bones, &c. the common effects of caustics

* See the treatment of these diseases in the third volume of my Rational Practice of Physic, and in the most approved, experienced, and learned authors. External applications, used to these affections, have blinded thousands, particularly poultices; which have caused suppurations and the bursting of the eye, or incurable opacities of the cornea, &c. See likewise my Treatise on the Cure of ulcerated Legs without Rest, by removing Causes from the Constitution, &c. &c.

applied to chancres, astringent injections, or leaving the clap to cure itself, appear many years after their supposed cure by injection, &c. These are all as local as the gonorrhœa virulenta, as it is called, and arise from the same *poison*, namely, venereal infection; yet both injectors and causticators, deserting their favourite principle of LOCAL DISEASES ONLY REQUIRING LOCAL REMEDIES, apply universals, rub in mercurial ointment unmercifully, raise vehement salivations, &c. to correct and cure the baneful effects of their former blundering errors *.

Let not the profession, therefore, nor mankind, be any longer deceived by such futile assertions, which in their consequences have produced such a multiplicity of mischief. The followers of such unfounded doctrines cannot too soon relinquish the horrid practice of *injecting* and stopping venereal running, on such *fallacious* grounds; by this they will infallibly prevent the necessity of *caustic*, or any *other bougies*.

There will be a plentiful harvest of urethral strictures so long as astringent injections, either through the impatience of the infected, or the errors of the prejudiced, exist. The caustic bougie has, and will have, ample scope for that deleterious practice. Fresh dupes will arrive daily, and fresh misfortunes will accompany their unsuspecting credulity, as long as caustics to the urethra are applied. THE DEAD TELL NO TALES. Those who survive the tormenting practice, and live in inexpressible misery from the effects of caustics, &c. conceal their infirmities as much as possible, both before and after the wretched attempts to obtain a radical cure. Disappointed in their sanguine expectations, they apply to any practitioner sooner than an astringent injector, or urethral causticator; and, whilst these rash operators are boasting of successful cures, *many other* of the faculty know that the reverse is the truth, and could, if they pleased, expose the dreadful sufferings, and often FATAL CATASTROPHE of the afflicted. A delicacy of sentiment, a regard for the honour of the art, and the characters of the erroneous, should ever prevent personalities. To attack prejudices, but spare persons, is the most honourable mode of procedure. It is hoped the multiplicity of proofs, in town and country, of dreadful injuries, imperfect cures, or fatal effects from caustics, so well known to numerous practitioners, will prove a bar to future mischief; especially as mild successful methods of cure are communicated, in which there is neither RISK, DANGER, nor apprehension of FATALITY. IT IS NOBLE IN THE ART OF MEDICINE NOT TO SHRINK FROM DIFFICULTIES; BUT IT IS IRRATIONAL TO ATTEMPT IMPOSSIBILITIES.

* Violent inflammation of the prostate, testicles, &c. produces fever, requiring bleeding, &c. The great Sharp recommends free bleeding, &c. as in the pleurisy, &c. &c. and his methods are successful.

IT is reported, that a nest of irritated hornets will surround and torture the author to death, for daring to produce these important truths. It should be remembered, that not any one practitioner, but a numerous host of the most learned men in Europe, for above two centuries, have condemned astringent injections. To be wounded in such respectable and learned company would be the highest honour. Behold the formidable veteran army of true science against chimerical notions and palpable absurdities.

AUTHORS WHO HAVE SEVERELY REPROBATED ASTRINGENT INJECTIONS, AND WHOSE SENTIMENTS ARE QUOTED IN THE PRECEDING PART OF THE WORK.

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| 1. Fernelius, | 21. Lieuteaud, |
| 2. Julius Cæsar Benedictus, | 22. Brooks, |
| 3. Jonstonus, | 23. Juberthou, |
| 4. Sydenham, | 24. Dibon, |
| 5. Wiseman, | 25. Dionis, |
| 6. Riverius, | 26. Winslow, |
| 7. Nenter, | 27. Home, |
| 8. Pitcairn, | 28. Storck, |
| 9. Freind, | 29. Stoll, |
| 10. Shaw, | 30. Marherr, |
| 11. Hoffman, | 31. Plenck, |
| 12. Robinson, | 32. De Meza, |
| 13. Heister, | 33. Callisen, |
| 14. Astruc, | 34. Colombier, |
| 15. Col de Vilars, | 35. Cullen, |
| 16. Daran, | 36. Swediaur, |
| 17. Van Swieten, | 37. Pott, |
| 18. Ludwig, | 38. Howard, |
| 19. Rowley *, | 39. Mr. Everard Home, |
| 20. Vogel, | 40. Numerous cotemporaries. |

* It may appear extraordinary to see the name of the present author in the list; but a work was published on the subject thirty years ago. It was not republished in the Rational Practice of Physic, as I never intended to interfere in surgery, had not the present causes rendered it highly necessary, for the salvation of society, and to serve the cause of humanity. The whole has been written in those momentary opportunities that could be spared from the continual hurry of an extensive medical town practice.

Dare any practitioner, however elevated in his own esteem, assert, that his private voice should be attended to against such an assemblage of all the learning in Europe? Will any one be sufficiently bold to defend the astringent injectors in open violation of thousands of indubitable and sorrowful facts? Are there any physicians and surgeons in Europe, who would countenance the stigmatized doctrines, in direct opposition to truth? If there be any such men existing, they ill deserve the name of physicians; they should be nominated tormentors. Contracted practice may be silent; but it is a great advantage in this grand commercial metropolis, where venereal cases are so common, that any novelty is soon ascertained, as to its utility or mischief.

THE THREATENED ATTACK OF THE CAUSTICATORS.

The causticators in Great Britain, some say, are numerous; they too, fired with wrath, will take the field, caustics in hand, to burn and consume every exposé of their favourite practice. The conflict cannot be with any individual; but with a considerable force of many distinguished surgeons. It must be the battle of rash project against the united voice of sound reason and long experience. Many, however, have deserted the caustic cause, full of remorse and contrition, for the mischiefs they have occasioned by their credulity in impossibilities. They now with affliction say, that reflection comes too late*. There is another body of practitioners, few in number it is hoped, who protest, with a pertinacious proud obstinacy, they will not desist until they have fired the urethras of several more. It is seriously recommended to these to view SAVIARD'S cases. Let them read the lamentable descriptions of the authors produced in the present work. Let them industriously ascertain many recent facts in this metropolis, the horrid effects of their temerity. Let them be convinced that the unfeeling project is not a new contrivance; but one that has always failed and produced mischief in the hands of different impostors and adventurers for nearly two centuries.

* If the censured practices continue, neither mankind, from their wilful credulity, nor the uninformed of the profession, merit the solicitude of the science, humanity, and integrity of those honourable characters, who have so freely reprobated astringent injections, caustic bougies, &c. Even the partial use of astringents is very dubitable,

Let them see, coolly and candidly, the reiterated observations of FERRIUS, SAVIARD, ASTRUC, DE LA FAYE, SAMUEL SHARP, LE DRAN, DARAN, and all those eminent surgeons who were most capable of giving important information, advice, and warning to the inexperienced and uninformed. If they continue the shocking practice, after these public testimonies of disapprobation of so many skilful practitioners, they must be considered, in the highest degree, incorrigible. Behold the names of many men, elevated by real merit and skill to the highest rank in the profession! They appear not like the unlettered, who boast they never study books, and are too conceited to be taught what they do not know; but many excellent practisers, who sagaciously availed themselves of the bold attempts, fortunate or ill success of their ancestors, and have accordingly regulated their conduct, in most cases, by the laws of humanity, and the rules of enlightened science.

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| 1. Ambrose Paré, | 10. Palsyn, |
| 2. Alphonfus Ferrius, | 11. De la Faye, |
| 3. Forestus, | 12. Daran, |
| 4. Scultetus, | 13. Sharp, |
| 5. Wiseman, | 14. Heister, |
| 6. Saviard, | 15. Le Dran, |
| 7. Verdun, | 16. Jesse Foot, |
| 8. Astruc, | 17. Bell, |
| 9. Col de Vilars, | 18. Teytaud*. |

REASONINGS OF THE CAUSTICATORS PROVED ERRONEOUS:

Some of the causticators, when pressed on the fatality of their cruel project, caustic mania, or mad rage of the day, acknowledge lives have been *lost*, in some instances; but in justification,

* There are two or three quoted as having used caustic remedies, particularly *auripigmentum*. The excellent surgeon of l'Hotel Dieu of Paris, *Desault*, whose lectures have been lately published in French, and who attended the late unfortunate *Dauphin* of France, in his last unhappy moments, says, concerning caustics, " Il y en a comme l'arsenic, dont la causticité est si active, qu'on doit être très-circonspect dans l'usage qu'on en fait." It does not appear, that the causticators ever examine the state of patients two or three years after a supposed cure; if they did, they would immediately relinquish the practice. Many instances of the dreadful effects have come, and are daily coming, under my own observation. The augmented misery would be shocking to relate.

they ask, what chirurgical operations can be performed without danger? thus endeavouring to confound strictures of the urethra with the capital operations of amputation in cases of gangrene, or gun-shot wounds in the joints, &c.; cutting for the stone; or trepanning for fractures of the cranium, &c. Thus, they satisfy weak minds of the absolute necessity of caustics being applied to the urethra, to remove the consequences of astringent injections, omissions of mercury, &c. &c.* Such superficial reasoning must make logic laugh! If causes of diseases, situations, similarity of functions, and contiguous sensibility of parts and danger, be not analogous; all conclusions from such remote and dissimilar principles must be sophistical and fallacious. Such arguments are as distant from the main point, as east from west. Are patients, who have suffered strictures many years with more or less inconvenience, to be considered in a state analogous to those who are suffering under rapidly spreading mortifications, gun-shot wounds of the joints, fractures of the cranium, &c. where hazardous, very dangerous operations, which often prove fatal, are immediately necessary, as the only probable means of saving life? Will patients, afflicted with long-continued urethral obstructions, die in a few hours or in a day or two, if caustics be not applied? Are those fiery burning weapons the only miserable resources, in the present cultivated science of surgery, capable of affording relief? No. Milder methods have universally succeeded; whilst caustics have produced what every skilful surgeon should religiously avoid being the cause of, namely, intolerable pains, hæmorrhage,

* Though *Bilguer*, first surgeon of the armies of Frederic the Great, king of Prussia, has, in numerous instances, proved the contrary in regard to gun-shot wounds, for he never amputated, where it was a rule of art, and yet often succeeded. If the same practice had been followed in the West Indies, all his patients would have died of locked jaws. In the war before last, we never waited, in hot climates, for a separation; the safest mode was to amputate early. In Mr. *Blizard's* ingenious Treatise on Gun-shot Wounds this is not recommended. I communicated this doctrine in the chapter on gun-shot wounds, in *Medical Advice to the Army and Navy*, presented to his Majesty in 1776, during the American war.

† Some cavillers and defenders ask, Suppose the urethra be obliterated, would not caustic be proper there? No: it has been tried, and proved fatal. The art is not obliged to attempt impossibilities in desperate cases. The art likewise has better methods, which every skilful surgeon knows. Besides, the total obliteration is a very rare case.

inflammation, cold shiverings, abscess, callosities, incurable ulcers, mortification, and an agonizing death!

The astringent injectors inconsiderately pave the way and prepare inhuman work for the causticators; but it is remarkable, the causticators declare they *never* use injections, it is sufficient for them to remove the effects. *Quid est hoc? Quare hæc subita mutatio?* They embark in the same bottom, and must sink or swim together. The causticators, not perhaps knowing, or forgetting that admirable rule in skilful surgery, CUNCTA PRIUS TENTANDA, fly to their torturing remedy with eager precipitation, and stride in violent haste to burn a temporary passage through the urethra*; without trying those lenient methods that have succeeded with DARAN, SHARP, and many of the most excellent surgeons. Were these great and experienced men living, they would be filled with horror; their souls would freeze at the barbarity of the times, and rashness of the present coarse and random applications. By the unfeeling violence of the causticators, they have produced, in some instances, the frightful operation of laying open, or cutting away, the CORPUS SPONGIOSUM PENIS. The penis itself, in other instances, has been cut off, AMPUTATED ||! The causticators, therefore, instead of securely sheltering themselves and defending their practice on the plausible plea of other operations being dangerous, and laying stress on that circumstance as a vindication of their rashness, and the fatality of the favourite practice, only expose the nakedness of the land in the fair fields of reason. Such sophisters appear to have a very high notion of their own sublime faculties, and a very contemptuous opinion of the mental powers of others; to suppose

* It has proved in many instances *temporary*, to my own knowledge, and that of many other practitioners. If the ulcer produced by the caustic be curable, a contracted cicatrix remains, and in time the original symptoms of obstruction reappear.

|| Can any thing be more dreadful to mankind than the loss of those important parts, on which population depends? Women scarcely ever know the accursed symptoms of urethral strictures. They are never or rarely cured by any astringent injected through the meatus urinarius. The lower class until lately escaped; gentlemen of rank and fortune are most the victims to the mal-practices. A military surgeon of great experience exclaimed the other day, in confirmation of my observations, "Most of the military have ruined urethras!"

such

such a flimsy superficial sophism could have any weight amongst the erudite in the profession of physic, a profession in which, amongst many members, the most extensive and universal learning exists. The first part of the sentence, *CUNCTA PRIUS TENTANDA*, has been totally disregarded, as if no such humane and excellent maxim belonged to the most useful art of surgery; for they attempt nothing, when they should attempt every thing safely practicable. *SED IMMEDICABILE VULNUS ENSE RECIDENDUM*, *NE PARS SINCERA TRAHATUR*, has been the professional plea for amputation, &c. The causticators, instead of observing this wise precept, this precept of necessity; by their active fires, force *SINCERE* and *HEALTHFUL PARTS* into a state of dreadful disease; then *ENSE RECIDENDUM* is put into execution, sometimes by the loss of the penis, or scrotum, &c. if not of life*.

The cause then of such a premature death originates in the violence of the caustic application, and the precipitancy of the surgeon, who would not attend to *CUNCTA PRIUS TENTANDA*.

THE INJECTORS AND CAUSTICATORS HAVE MUCH TO PROVE
TO SUPPORT THEIR DOCTRINES.

If any causticating surgeons should take the field in defence of astringent injections and the escharotic cause, publish their names, and declare their intentions of determined perseverance in that abominable treatment, it would be a generous act; for then mankind would be apprized of what they have to suffer, and the whole world would know to whom they are obliged for all the various evils recited; to whom they owe all the misfortunes, that diminish the honour of the art, and which make all humanity shudder! If they undertake the defence of the practice, they must prove, in direct contradiction to the learned authors quoted, that astringent injections, notwithstanding the daily evils they produce, and for which reason the causticators have deserted the practice *in toto*, are harmless and salutary: that although thousands have been

* When the neck of the bladder, or bladder itself, mortifies by the horrid practice, which has happened, *ense recidendum* is as impossible as cutting out the stomach, womb, or ureters, heart, &c. It cannot be performed without instantaneous death following. So that when a mortification of any part of the bladder, or its neck, happens, there is not the consolation of cutting away the diseased parts, *ne pars sincera trahatur*.

poxed from the exclusion of mercury in recent venereal infection; yet it is an excellent practice to omit that only specific †: that strictures in the urethra are as frequently subsequent to every other practice as from injection, although all dispassionate observers, and all who do not inject, prove directly the opposite fact: that the best way of curing a clap is to produce a compleat pox*: that powerful salivations are necessary, although much mischief follows the rough practice, and although milder methods prove a permanent cure, in millions of instances: that caustics to chancres and urethral strictures, are excellent remedies; although the first often produce buboes, phymosis, paraphymosis, dangerous ulcers, &c. or confirmed poxes, many years after a supposed cure; the latter, the evils related, the loss of the whole penis in some instances, through the jagged remains of which a new passage has been burned: that suppurative bougies, which have unquestionably cured so many thousands, with ease, security, and permanency, are quite inferior to the uncertain dilatation project, or to the burning caustic, that has rendered so many miserable, or proved so terribly destructive. When these and many more such impossibilities are irrefutably proved; then may the injectors and causticators triumph! then may the enterprising followers of the caustic banners continue unmolested, and march, armed with the fiery weapons, to repeat their terrible violations of reason, experience, and humanity!

The CORPS DE RESERVE shall lastly be brought forth in defence of the mild suppurating mode of treating urethral obstruc-

† It has been insinuated by some surgeons of no small eminence, that there is supposed to be a little *charlatanerie* in the caustic business; and while that frightful practice is held out as *primum mobile*, in many cases, no caustic is applied; but the common methods are used, by which other surgeons prove successful. In this I do not speak from my own knowledge, but merely from the assertions of others; who likewise affirm, that many cases have been treated as bougie cases, where no obstructions, or very little, existed. It is hoped, for the honour of humanity, these assertions are exaggerated, and unfounded.

* One Dr. Misanbin, a *charlatan*, who caught the ear of the great by injections, first poxed his patients, and then gave mercury to cure the effects of his own handy work. I consider Hogarth's Doctor in Marriage-à-la-Mode, with carious bones of the skull, &c. as a severe ridicule of the injecting and poxing practice of that day.

tions,

tions, recommended, and so generously communicated, by my late worthy and esteemed friend M. DARAN. Here physicians and surgeons of the first character, learned professors, all unite in praises of the success attending the skilful treatment for a period of above fifty years*.

Liste Alphabétique de MEDECINS qui ont attesté l'Efficacité de la Méthode de M. Daran.

MESSIEURS

ALBIN, — — —	{	Docteur agrégé au Collège des Medecins à Marseille.
BALIEU (DE), —	{	Conseiller du Roi, & l'un de ses Médecins ordinaires.
BERTRAND, — —		Doyen du Collège des Médecins de Marseille.
BOUILHAC, — —	{	Premier Médecin de Monseigneur le Dauphin & de Madame la Dauphine.
BOUNIOLS, — —	{	Docteur de l'Université de Montpellier, Médecin du Roi à Fontainebleau, ci-devant Médecin ordinaire de S. A. R. Madame la Duchesse de Lorraine.
BOYER, — — —	{	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Censeur Royal, & Médecin ordinaire du Roi.
BRUHIER, — —	{	Censeur Royal, & l'un des Auteurs du Journal des Savans.
CANTWEL, — —		Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
CASAMAJOR, — —		Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
CHICOYNEAU, —	{	Conseiller d'Etat ordinaire, & premier Médecin du Roi.
COMBALUSIER, —	{	Docteur de l'Université de Montpellier, de la Faculté Royale des Sciences de la même ville, & ancien Professeur de la Faculté de Valence.
FALCONET, — —	{	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Médecin-Consultant du Roi, de l'Académie Royale des Inscriptions & Belles-Lettres.
FERREIN, — —	{	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Conseiller du Roi & Professeur Royal de Médecin au Collège Royal, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences.

* M. Daran was surgeon to the French army, counsellor of state, &c. &c. and much respected by the faculty composing the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, to which learned body he introduced me near thirty years ago, and particularly to M. Sabatier, Morreau, Louis, &c. &c. M. Daran was intimate with my late worthy friend George Whatley, Esq. treasurer to our Foundling Hospital, whose whole life was spent in the most generous acts of humanity and benevolence: he had served Daran at *Marseilles*, 1744, and it was ever gratefully acknowledged. I have some of the original bougies, made at that period.

JOYEUSE, — —	Médecin ordinaire des Galeres.
JUSSIEU (DE), —	Ecuyer, Conseiller, Secrétaire du Roi, Maison & Couronne de France, & de ses Finances, Docteur de Montpellier & de Paris, Professeur en Botanique au Jardin Royal des Plantes, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences, & Membre de Sociétés Royales de Londres & de Berlin.
HOC (LE), — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, ancien Médecin ordinaire du Chatelet, & ordinaire de l'Hôtel-Dieu, & de l'Hôpital Royal de la Charité de Paris.
MEDALON, — —	Conseiller de la Médecine du Roi, & de sa Compagnie des Cent-Suisses, ancien Médecin des Camps & Armées du Roi.
MICHEL, — — —	Docteur de la Faculté de Montpellier, agrégé au Collège des Médecins de Marseille, & Médecin du Lazaret de Purge.
MOLIN, — — —	Docteur de la Faculté de Montpellier, & Médecin-Consultant du Roi.
MOREAU, — —	Conseiller du Roi, & son Médecin ordinaire.
MOURET, — —	Médecin de l'Hôpital de Tarascon.
NIHELL.	
PLUNKETT.	
POUSSE, PERE, —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
POUSSE, FILS, —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, ancien Professeur de Chirurgie, & Censeur Royal.
PROCOPECOUTEAUX, —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris, ancien Professeur des Ecoles, & actuellement Professeur de Chirurgie en Langue Française.
RABOURS (DE), —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.
SIDOERE, — —	Docteur de la Faculté de Montpellier, & Médecin-Consultant du Roi.
THIEULLIER (LE), —	Docteur - Régent de la Faculté de Paris, Conseiller Médecin ordinaire du Roi en son Grand Conseil, & en la Prévôte de France.
VERNAGE, — —	Docteur-Régent de la Faculté de Paris.

Liste Alphabétique des CHIRURGIENS.

MESSIEURS

BAGIEU, — — —	Chirurgien de Saint Côme, & Chirurgien-Major des Gendarmes de la Garde du Roi.
BENOMONT, — —	Chirurgien Juré de Paris.
BERGEROT, — —	Maître Chirurgien Juré de S. Côme.
BIAC (DE), — —	Maître Chirurgien Juré de Saint Côme.
BOISCAILLAUD, —	Maître Chirurgien de S. Côme, Chirurgien ordinaire du Roi par quartier, & son premier Chirurgien ordinaire en survivance.

BOUDOU, — —	{	Chirurgien de S. Côme, & Chirurgien en chef de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Paris.
BOYER, — —	{	Ci-devant Chirurgien-Major des Grenadiers à Cheval de Sa Majesté Catholique.
CASAUBON, — —		Chirurgien Juré de S. Côme.
CASSAING, — —	{	Chirurgien Juré à Paris, & Chirurgien du Roi, & ordinaire en sa grande Artillerie.
CASTAIGNET, —		Maître Chirurgien de Paris.
DALBON, — —	{	Maître en Chirurgie, Conseiller du Roi, Inspecteur des Boissons, ancien Chirurgien de S. M. en son Artillerie.
DARIUS, — —	{	Maître en Chirurgie, Membre de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie.
DAVIEL, — —	{	Maître-ès-Arts, Chirurgien Juré de Marseille, entretenu sur les Galeres du Roi, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Toulouse, Associé correspondant de celle de Chirurgie de Paris, Membre de l'Institut des Sciences de Bologne, Professeur & Démonstrateur Royal de Chirurgie à Marseille.
DESPORT, — —	{	Chirurgien de la Reine, & Chirurgien-Major des Camps & Armées du Roi.
DULATTIER, — —	{	Ancien Chirurgien-Major des Armées du Roi, & Aide-Major de la Charité de Paris.
DUPONY, — —		Maître Chirurgien de Saint Côme.
FAGET, — —		Maître Chirurgien de S. Côme, & de la Reine.
FAYE (DE LA), —	{	De l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie, Démonstrateur Royal pour les opérations, ancien Chirurgien des Camps & Armées de S. M.
FOUBERT, — —	{	Maître en Chirurgie, Chirurgien ordinaire du Roi en sa Cour de Parlement, & ancien Chirurgien-Major de l'Hôpital de la Charité.
GODEFRÖY, — —		Maître Chirurgien de Saint Côme.
GRAVE (LA), —	{	Maître en Chirurgie, & Chirurgien ordinaire du Roi en son Artillerie.
HAYE (DE LA), —	{	Maître en Chirurgie, ancien Prévôt de sa Compagnie, & Membre de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie.
HEVIN, — —	{	Premier Chirurgien de Madame la Dauphine, Maître, Démonstrateur Royal, & Secrétaire de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie pour les correspondances.
HOUSTET, — —		Chirurgien de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie.
JALLET, — —		Chirurgien de S. Côme.
LOUSTAUNAU, —		Chirurgien du Roi & des Enfans de France.
LOUXTO, — —		Chirurgien Juré de S. Côme.

MALAVAI, — —	{	Chirurgien Juré, & ordinaire du Roi en sa Cour de Parlement.
MEHAIGNERY DE LA RICHARDIERE, —	{	Chirurgien Juré de Saint Côme, & Chirurgien de feu S. A. R. M. le Duc d'Orléans, Régent.
MENJON, — —	{	Maître en Chirurgie & Membre de l'Académie Royale de Chirurgie.
MORAND, — —	{	Maître en Chirurgie à Paris, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences & de celle de Chirurgie, Censeur Royal.
MOULIN (DU), —	{	Maître Chirurgien Juré de Saint Côme, & Doyen de la Compagnie.
PEYRONIE (DE LA),	{	Ci-devant premier Chirurgien, & Médecin-Consultant du Roi.
POUJADE, — —	{	Chirurgien privilégié du Roi pour les Maladies secretes.
QUINTARD, — —	{	Chirurgien-Major des Gardes, & de M. le Grand Maréchal de la Couronne de Pologne.
RECOLIN, — —		Chirurgien de la Prévôté de l'Hôtel du Roi.
RUFFEL, — — —	{	Chirurgien Juré de Saint Côme, & Chirurgien-Major des Gardes du Corps du Roi.
SARRAU, — — —		Chirurgien de Saint Côme.
SERRES, — — —		Maître Chirurgien Juré de la ville de Montpellier.
SUE, — — — —	{	Chirurgien Juré, & Prévôt de S. Côme dans la ville de Paris.
TAILLARD, — —		Chirurgien Juré à Paris.

APPROBATION.

J'ai lu par ordre de Monseigneur le Garde des Sceaux les *Observations Chirurgicales sur les Maladies de l'Urethre traitées suivant une nouvelle Méthode, par M. Daran, cinquième Edition*. Cet Ouvrage, déjà fort connu, mérite d'être imprimé par les bonnes Observations qu'il contient. A Paris, ce 14 Juin 1779.

SUE, Censeur Royal.

De plus, j'ai lu par ordre de Monseigneur le Garde des Sceaux, un Manuscrit portant pour titre : *Composition des Remedes employés par M. Daran dans les Maladies de l'Urethre*. Nous pensons que le Public recevra avec plaisir & reconnoissance pour l'Auteur un Remede si utile à l'humanité. A Paris, ce 21 Juillet 1779.

SUE.

RECAPITULATION OF THE WORK.

THE origin, progress, improvements, and treatment of every species of venereal infection have been discussed, as far as this performance admitted. Animadversions on destructive principles and practice, new or old revived chimerical projects, have been profusely introduced. Antivenereal remedies, whether openly avowed and regular, or secret and irregular, have been examined and criticised. The reasons for never treating any venereal infection without mercury, and the necessity of banishing powerful salivations, are submitted to the consideration of the learned and experienced in the medical profession: they are founded in reiterated observation, and admitted by the most able practitioners in Europe. The merits of mild successful practices and the additional force of mineral alteratives in complex venereal cases, according to circumstances, constitutions, seasons, and climates, are energetically inculcated. Many original and appropriate prescriptions have been communicated, for the different purposes of practice in the variety of circumstances that occur. The superior utility of fumigations and of many methods of treatment has been defended, which fleeting whimsical hypothesis, or which inexperience or presumption, had rashly decried, without any practical knowledge of their importance. Astringent injections have been demonstrably proved the principal cause of urethral obstructions and stricture. Mild methods of treating such cases, with safety and success, have been ardently recommended and fully authenticated. Caustic bougies, applied to the urethra under pretence of removing strictures, have been shown not only inadequate to their intentions, but often dreadfully destructive in their consequences. When radical cures have been confidently promised by the causticators, and credited with the warmest hopes and expectations by the deluded patients, additional misery, permanent sufferings, or a dreadful death, have been too often the consequences of the tormenting delusion. The methods of alleviating the horrid miseries, which caustics produce when applied to the exquisitely sensible urethra, are lastly introduced, and many causes of impotence from urethral complaints explained. The whole work is interspersed with sentiments and reflections on many defects of the art, and what appeared the most effectual means

means of their removal, by a learned and practical education, such as Boerhaave, Hoffman, Heister, and other distinguished physicians and surgeons have possessed and inculcated *. These doctrines are chiefly intended for the serious perusal and contemplation of students; and the inexperienced, and all, who have been deluded by those and other late chimerical fallacies, which have urged the necessity of the present animadversions.

CONCLUSION, &c.

Having now discharged a duty to the profession, and to the public, from whom, through a long life, so much confidence and protection have been experienced, a short pause may be requisite. —An apology may be thought expedient.—An apology should be offered for the free censures advanced; the frequent repetitions of which, to some readers, may prove disgusting. To the learned and well-informed many parts may be thought redundant; but to those who are inexperienced, and have yet their profession to learn, a work cannot be too explicit or instructive. There appeared but two modes of procedure on the present occasion; either silently to suffer a continuance of dreadful injuries to society; or to openly expose their evil tendency. The former would have been pusillanimous and iniquitous; the latter, therefore, has been adopted, in order to reform some of those serious abuses, that have been revived or forced into the art with more speciousness and rashness than truth.

The censures are not levelled against any particular practitioners; but formed on the broad basis of general and public utility. Medical men should live in the utmost harmony and esteem, and never feel offended for difference of opinion. Facts alone should decide, and sagely direct their practical conduct. An affection, a warm affection for the excellent art of surgery, and a sincere regard for its honour, prompted the absolute necessity of the pre-

* The art of surgery is not so barren of intelligence, if the ancient and many excellent moderns be examined, as some self-created surgeons have pronounced. This may be easily proved by only referring to the surgery of Hippocrates, Celsus, &c. Paré, Dionis, Heister, Sharp, Le Dran, &c. &c. As to medical education, the erudite BOERHAAVE'S *METHODUS DISCENDI MEDICINAM* may be studied, a work replete with solid learning, &c. &c. which no age has equalled. *SCHOLA MEDICINÆ* may be likewise consulted, as it contains the more recent discoveries abridged, &c. &c.

sent publication. Numerous practitioners, both in town and country, are well informed of the deleterious effects announced, and some may be found, more capable of treating these important subjects. Many, who vehemently condemn in private conversation the practices impeached, shrink from the ungrateful task of publicly exposing the direful consequences. Several have expressed an impatient desire to see the recited errors brought forth to public view, and, if possible, banished; yet they shift the *ONUS SCRIBENDI* on any shoulders except their own.—So let it be. It is more laudable to attempt to serve the public with moderate talents, than to suffer horrid misery to be inflicted on mankind, under the seducing appearance of the greatest benefits.

It would argue great apathy and negligence, after immense experience, joined to an ardent attachment to the art for above forty years, not to present all the fruits of constant industry and attentive inquiry. It will appear, on reflection, that I come not to destroy, but to save.

A serious and interesting duty is now fulfilled; a duty indispensably due to the public; to the profession; to humanity!

The most cogent reasons have been assigned, why astringent injections, powerful salivations, and caustic bougies should be banished for ever from the practice of surgery.

Those, who have been attached to the use of astringent injections, have been proved to be the ringleaders of the most terrible evils, either immediate or remote, that ever afflicted mankind. Relinquish, then, that favourite practice, that injurious prejudice: thus will urethral strictures daily be reduced in number, and, in time, be heard of no more!

As the evils of urethral strictures must occur so long as the effects of astringent injections, or other mal-practices continue; let not the cruel violent modes of burning the most susceptible parts of man be adopted for their removal*.

Let

* A distinguished nobleman was said to be perfectly cured by the burning caustic—pus, sanies, and different coloured matter is daily voided with the urine, with additional callosities in most parts of the urethra.

Such are the pretended cures, many instances of which I have seen. A servant of the same nobleman lost his life by the caustic.—Whilst I am writing this, a clergyman is present, who unhappily had the caustic repeatedly applied,

Let not the age of ARCAGATHUS return again with redoubled fury ; that inexorable monster of a surgeon, who was banished Rome for barbarities, for the unheard-of barbarities of furiously running through the city, cutting and burning whomsoever his rapacious hands could seize on. Exclude savage ferocity from the art ; for he is the most excellent surgeon, who performs the greatest number of cures with the fewest cruel operations.

It may be expected that this work, however dictated by humanity, must produce private enemies, who will secretly whisper what they dare not openly avow. A man accustomed to the detraction of malevolence for public benefits has little to apprehend ; but mankind should be warned how they receive calumniating insinuations instead of truth. In this liberal science let not the proverb be applied, FIGULUS FIGULUM ODIT, MEDICUS MEDICUM. However events may happen, it can only be said, that, unless provoked, many additional proofs of the mischievous tendency of the censured doctrines shall ever be suppressed ; but if forced, by any defence of the practice, they shall appear in all their hideous colours.

May profound science, prudence, and humanity ever join hands in the most useful of arts ! May surgery and all the branches of medicine, under the guidance of reason, daily improve and flourish until time shall be no more !

applied, in the course of two or three years ; the original cause of his stricture was the application of astringent injections, when a youth at Eton. The use of caustic has rendered him truly miserable, who was but slightly so before.

A gentleman had a caustic lately applied to the urethra ; cold shiverings followed, and he died in a few hours !

THE END.

London, May 1, 1796.

This Day is Published, in Latin, in Two Volumes Quarto,
By Subscription, with 66 elegant Copper-plate Engravings,

Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova;

CONTINENS

HISTORIAM MEDICINÆ, ANATOMIAM, PHYSIOLOGIAM, atque PATHOLOGIAM SPECIALEM, cum 66 Tabulis Æneis.

Auctore GULIELMO ROWLEY, M.D. Universitatis Oxon.; Colleg. regal. Medicorum Londinensis Membro, nec non Medico Nosocomii S. Maribonensis, &c.

LONDINI, in ædibus AUCTORIS, No. 21, SAVILLE-ROW, habenda.

Some Account of the Nature, Extent, and Utility, of the foregoing Work, &c.

TO promote the easier acquisition of true medical science, to render the art less conjectural, and to diffuse its humane benefits through all the earth, were the first motives that strenuously impelled the author to attempt writing the present extensive work in *Latin*.

The principal impediments to useful medical studies are the multiplicity of authors, and the variety and contrariety of opinions with which the art superabounds. Professors usually make a great display of apparent erudition by diffusive lectures, by the introduction of an immense number of volumes, and juvenile vanity is frequently gratified by a free access to large libraries. The incessantly reading books, collecting ancient and modern opinions, and a promptitude in believing doctrines, have been considered as studying medicine; but a student who writes down the symptoms of diseases, their modern and most judicious treatment, and the events, in an hospital of full practice, will comprehend more of the art in twelve months, than the most industrious university scholar can ever acquire. The former, when under the instruction of an able and experienced preceptor, who liberally communicates the faithful result of long and actual observation, presently obtains a practical knowledge of the extent and power of the art, determined by absolute facts: but the wader through stupendous volumes of frequent repetitions, if any excellence should occur, unless he unite practical remarks on numerous diseases, by ocular demonstration, he is incapable of selecting the most important, or of separating the pure metal from the scoria with which it is obscured, or often surrounded.*

These considerations induced the Author to attempt to *concentrate* the most useful knowledge of ancients and moderns in the *Historia* and *Schola Medicinæ*; that medical preceptors might convey science with less circumlocution, and that students, by being early and briefly informed of the past and present states of medicine, might industriously begin improvements, wherever they found defects; and thus by daily accessions of science gain that degree of perfection which every humane practitioner must devoutly wish. Learned and reflecting physicians are never too proud to improve.†

* Many writers reason well and practise ill, by depending on inefficacious medicines.

† No inconsiderable part of the present work was arranged and written whilst the author was attending his *terms* at the *University of Oxford*, but various observations have arisen from the author's travels into *hot climates*, when in his Majesty's service, from 1760 to 1765, and through most parts of *Europe*, afterward, to inspect the excellence or defects of medical education and practice in the principal *universities* and *hospitals*; and he is convinced from forty years study, experience, and reflection, that *theory* without *practice* is like a *body* without *anima-*

IN THE HISTORY

Plate I. gives some idea of the Egyptian religious opinions as connected with medicine, &c. from the famous antique *Tabula Iliaca vel Bembina*.

Plate II. III. IV. V. VI. contain medals, rings, &c. Greek and Roman, on which the deities presiding over medicine are exhibited with a chronological table from the earliest accounts to the present æra, of all the distinguished personages in philosophy and medicine, &c. in three or four columns.

IN THE ANATOMICAL PART.

Plate I. contains a very elegant male and female figure, drawn by Mr. Edwards, of the Royal Academy, and engraved by that excellent artist; Mr. Sharp, to explain the external parts, &c.

Plate *I. Two figures with the references to the former plate opposite to the page of *Greek* description, and referring to the *Latin* description, &c.

Plate II. shews the constituent parts of the human body, with the description in *Greek* and *Latin*.

Plate III. is of the bones and their junctures, connections, &c. with *Greek* and *Latin* descriptions.

Plates IV. and V. shew the front and back view of the human skeleton, with *Greek* and *Latin* descriptions.

Plate VI. describes various bones with *Greek* and *Latin* descriptions.

Plate VII. shews a side view of the human skeleton, a fœtal skeleton, with the differences between the infant and adult, and the teeth.

Plate VIII. Exhibits the parts composing muscles, examined with a microscope, as an introduction to myology.

Plate IX. a front view of the muscles, the references in the opposite single page, with the *names, origin, insertion, and use*, in three columns distinctly exemplified, so that the student with the greatest facility, especially if he dissect with the plates before him, must obtain a perfect knowledge of all muscular motion.

Plates X. XI. XII. XIII. XIV. XV. XVI. shew the second, third, and fourth layer of muscles in the fore and back view, with references in single pages to each plate.

Plate XVII. A view of the muscles of the whole body laterally.

Plate XVIII. shews various muscles not reducible under the former nine plates. After this the myology is completed with the manner of dissecting muscles, and the different subjects necessary to be chosen by the anatomist for preparing the bones, muscles, nerves, injections, &c. with many useful rules to be observed in anatomical studies and dissections.

Angiologia, or the knowledge of vessels, which are arteries, sanguiferous veins, and lymphatic vessels; these are all perspicuously exhibited in three columns, in a manner entirely new.

Plates XIX. XX. are front and back views of the arteries of the whole body, as they appear when injected.

Plate XXI. is a view of all the veins of the whole human body, with a reference in one page shewing the origin in extremities, their various directions and terminations, &c. in the manner the blood passes from all the veins to the *cava*.

Plate XXII. is of the lymphatic glands and lacteal vessels, by which is shewn how nutrition is performed; by lacteal absorption and passage of the chyle to the thoracic duct, subclavian vein, &c. &c.

Plate XXIII. is a whole elegant figure drawn by Pajllou, representing the lymphatic glands and the lymphatic vessels of the whole human body, explained in three columns under the heads of *name and seats of glands—vasa inferentia*—and *vasa efferentia*, by which a complete knowledge of the whole lymphatic system, its diseases, &c. is easily acquired.

ADENOLOGIA, OR AN EXPLANATION OF THE GLANDS,

Contains all the ancient opinions and modern discoveries of the glands of every species, their situations and uses.

A conspectus of all the glands in three columns, under the heads of name and feat—habit—function.

NEUROLOGIA, OR DOCTRINE OF THE NERVES.

The ancient and modern opinions of the nerves, containing extracts in Greek and Latin from *Rufus Ephesius*—*Herophilus*—*Erasistratus*—*Galenus*—*Oribasius*—*Vesalius*—*Eustachius*—*Leeuwenhoek*—*Willis*—*Vicussens*—*Winslow*—*Monro, sen.*—*Whytt*—*Haller*—*Meckel*—*Zinn*—*Moscatti*—*Pater de la Torre*—*Prochaska*—*Alex. Monro, jun.*—*Walker*, and some new ideas of the present author on the nerves, &c.

Plate XXIV. is a complete section, as large as life, of the basis of the cranium, shewing the origin and direction of the nerves to the sensitive organs, &c.

Plate XXV. shews the basis of the brain or cerebrum with the vessels.

Plate XXVI. The plexus of the cerebrum, corpus callosum, corpora striata, thalami nervorum opticorum, pineal gland, &c. &c.

Plate XXVII. The arteries of the brain, &c. of the full size.

Plate XXVIII. Of the medullary spine, pineal gland, &c. a complete treatise of the brain and all its parts, with a comparative view of the weight of the brains of most animals, with the weight of their bodies, including *man*, &c. to ascertain the different quantity of brain each animal possesses compared with man.

Of the cerebellum, medulla oblongata, spinalis, &c.

Plates XXIX. and XXX. exhibit the ganglions of nerves and funiculi.

Plate XXXI. shews the component parts of nerves magnified by a microscope in thirteen figures.

The vessels of the cerebrum, cerebellum, and medullary spine.

Plate XXXII. as large as life, shewing the intercostal cervical nerve, or sympatheticum magnum, ganglions, &c. proceeding to the heart.

Plate XXXIII. A reference plate to the foregoing, as large as life.

Plate XXXIV. shews the nerves of the right side going to the heart with two more figures of ganglions, &c. nerves, &c.

Sectio secunda Scholæ Medicinæ Universalis Novæ.

NEUROLOGIA continued.

Plate XXXV. large as life, or further explication of Plate XXXIII. &c. of arteries, veins, nerves, ganglions, muscles, &c. nervous ramifications, &c.

Plate XXXVI. A complete view of the nerves of the thorax and abdomen, &c. large.

Plate XXXVI. (2) A reference plate to the former, very large sheet.

Plate XXXVII. shews the cæliac ganglion, mesenteric plexus, and right hypogastric nerves, with veins, arteries, vertebræ, &c.

Plate XXXVII. (2) is a large reference plate to the former.

Plate XXXVIII. Nervum sympatheticum magnum and par octavum in the left side, &c.

Plate XXXVIII. (2) The reference plate to the former, large.

Plate XXXIX. exhibits the nerves of the liver and stomach from the conflux of the right and left cæliac ganglions, &c. &c.

Plate XXXIX. (2) Large reference plate to the last. The mode of dissecting and preparing the nerves for anatomical demonstration fully explained. These representations of all the nervous system are most beautifully drawn and engraved.

SPLANCHNOLOGIA

Treats of the integuments, viscera dedicated to forming chyle, secreting urine, semen for generation, the organs of breathing, of the circulation of the blood, and lastly, the organs of the senses.

Plate XL. shews the internal parts composing the thorax and abdomen, with references in one page arranged in three columns under the heads of name and situation—structure and connections—and uses.

Plate XLI. shews the abdomen (the intestines, &c. being removed.) The liver, gall bladder, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, ureters, bladder, large vessels, &c. are represented in *situ naturali*.

Differences between the adult and the embryo.

ON THE EYE, AND DOCTRINE OF VISION.

Plate XLII. shews the arteries, tunics, and humors of the eye in five figures.

Plate XLIII. shews the nerves of the bulb of the eye, vessels, &c. ganglion opthalmicum, with the ciliary nerves, &c.

Plate XLIV. exhibits the membrana corneae ciliaris, by which is joined the crystalline lens with the vitreous humor, &c. their minute arteries—Meibomius's glands, *vix lacrymarum*, &c. in ten figures.

Plate XLV. Origin of the tunics of the eye, reticulum choroidi intratum, plicæ processus ciliarium, annulus of the iris, &c. in six figures.

Plate XLVI. Muscles of the bulb of the eye in five figures.

Plate XLVII. The representation of the heart injected with wax in two figures.

Plate XLVIII. explains the circulation of the blood, the valves of the heart, &c.

An epitomy of anatomy for the junior students, and for those intended only to practise surgery, &c.

Hydrology, or the doctrine of the fluids of the human body, whether not secreted or secreted.

PHYSIOLOGIA.

The explanation of the functions and actions of all the parts of the living or animated human body.

The physiology of the human body is greatly abridged, and yet is ample, as to utility. It is shewn in a new point of view in three columns, from which are excluded all idle hypotheses and vain speculations; under the heads of physiology—scholia—pathology—by which at one view are seen the doctrines of the parts and functions, the real causes of their action, as far as human understanding extends, and their appearances after death from diseases, which form the foundation of morbid causes.

Plate XLIX. shews the pharynx and larynx, or the organs of swallowing, voice, &c.

Plate L. Of the organ of hearing.

Plate L. (2) Reference plate to the former.

Plate LI. Of the omentum, intestines, &c.

Plate LII. Second plate of the same with the bile, ducts, &c.

Plate LIII. The genital parts of men.

Plate LIV. The genital parts of women.

An epitomy of physiology for junior students.

The plates in the Schola Medicinæ, including reference plates, amount to sixty-six, elegantly engraved by capital artists, amongst whom will be found Sharp, Royce, Cooke, &c. The bones and muscles, arterial and venal systems, are particularly designed for surgery students, and the whole work for those who wish to become learned physicians. The various plates of the nerves, their ganglions, connexions, plexus's, &c. &c. of all the principal parts of the human body are particularly interesting to every

either directly of parts, or indirectly by sympathy. In these minute investigations many hundreds of references in the reference plates lead the studious pupil *gradatim* to a profound knowledge of the minutest causes of all different human sensations and signs of diseases, arranged and exhibited in such a manner as to leave, it is hoped, a durable impression on the mind, ready on all occasions to be usefully applied to medical practice.

In short, the *Schola Medicinæ* is calculated to answer the most ample purposes of instruction; to render most other books unnecessary, as far as *facts* and *just reasoning* extend; and, to early fortify the juvenile mind against those frothy conjectural effusions, which too often, *pro tempore*, injure the Pæonian art. It must be submitted to the discernment of the learned and candid, to determine on its probable utility, by considering the labour of the arrangement and execution, and by comparing the practical use of the *Schola Medicinæ* with any other single production extant.

The arrangement of the work, its gradual execution, the slow progress of the drawings and engravings, with which the letter-press was frequently obliged to keep pace, have consumed a period of above twenty-five years, as far as the author's other writings, and an extensive medical practice would permit. It was written in *Latin*, that it might become more universally useful to all nations. The style, it is hoped, is perspicuous, concise, and intelligible; those who have neglected their *Latin*, may, perhaps, find this performance useful in regaining, what may, in some measure, have been lost, and the junior students, it is hoped, will be incited to pursue their studies in the learned languages, which will amply reward their labours, and give additional lustre to that profession, in which they should attempt excellence as members. It is the duty of every physician to leave the art better than he found it, by dedicating to study, the idle hours consumed in amusements. Dissipation is always inimical to serious reflection.

The intended mode of publication.

The work was originally intended to be published by subscription, and his Majesty, above twenty years ago, was graciously pleased to promise royal protection on perusing the original plan: however, the impossibility of foreseeing whether the Author, during life, could accomplish such an undertaking, induced him to avoid soliciting subscriptions, but the object has been ardently pursued, and is now completed, as an elegant and useful library book for the nobility, gentry, physicians, &c. &c.

A work of this description, calculated for the erudite classes of society, cannot be expected to be encouraged, as books of more universal topics and reading. The Author conceives that the *Schola Medicinæ* may be very useful to, and most likely to be encouraged by the following ranks:

1. By all noblemen, gentlemen, and artists, who esteem literature, the fine and useful arts, as subjects of curiosity, instruction, or pleasure.
2. By all judges, counsellors, magistrates, and students of the law; as it may enable these gentlemen to examine, learnedly, in criminal cases of *murder*, &c. and by that means prevent the conviction of the innocent, which has happened from the want of such knowledge, in many instances.
3. By the heads of the church, and divines, who may be enabled, by their acquaintance with the wonderful structure of man, to more effectually combat and overthrow, by solid arguments, those who affect atheism.
4. By all students of universities, who may reap advantages by the study of anatomy, and by every private country gentleman, who will find a knowledge of anatomy useful, as it may prove serviceable to himself, family, friends, or neighbours.
5. By all the medical profession, to whom the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, &c. cannot be dispensed with, and a book which can facilitate these studies must be useful to the whole profession, either as a director
Students, or a remembrance to practitioners.

6. The Author proposes to publish the work with the *first fine impressions of the plates*, under the following conditions:

CONDITIONS.

I. The *two volumes* in quarto are ready to be delivered at the author's house, to *subscribers*, on paying four guineas and a half, bound in boards.

II. To subscribers only will be given an *English translation* of all references to the sixty-six copper-plates, on shewing the *subscription receipt*, in the course of six months from the present time; this English translation will contain a complete anatomy of the human body, &c. abridged.

III. After the subscribers in Great-Britain have been provided with the work, the remaining copies will most probably be sent to the continent.

IV. The subscription under the above conditions will be open two years from the present date, May 1, 1796, when the price will be advanced.

The price of the work must appear to all judges of the beautiful engravings, &c. to be quite inadequate to the author's expense and labour, for each plate, at the present price, does not exceed *One Shilling and Sixpence*, a sum lower than a common vulgar print.

It is requested, that all subscribers will be so obliging as to send their names, and places of abode, that they may be added to the Royal, noble, honourable, and professional encouragers of the *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*.

THE necessity and utility of this work, it is presumed, will be acknowledged, when it be considered, that no one book comprehending anatomical plates, with references to each in one page of letter press, and a complete physiology and pathology exhibited at one view, by *columns* that run parallel, has ever yet been published. The labour of consulting various writings separately, would require such a collection, that the expense is enormous, and the advantages to pupils doubtful, through the great errors in their arrangement. Many writers of former works have rather wished to appear splendid than useful, and much time has been lost in endless repetitions of flying from the *copper-plate* to the *references*; from the *references* to the *copper-plate*: the tediousness of which mode of conveying instruction is often considered by students so prolix, or difficult, that ignorance is preferred, frequently, to science, when obtained, only, by such laborious means. All these difficulties are now obviated. In the present performance, all that is contained in each plate, is compressed into *one* concise page of letter-press, opposite, by being printed in a small type, cast expressly for the purpose, and each page is divided into *columns*, in such a manner, as not only to give an exact description of the parts viewed, but likewise their connections, uses, &c. in short, what is the result of the most tedious and laborious study is here contained, frequently, in a short sentence, or self-evident proposition; thus into a small compass is reduced, all that is necessary to be known or remembered, when applied to the *medical, surgical, or obstetric art*. By these means hath *sixty-six* pages contracted all that is necessary to be comprehended in anatomy, except, that the *nerves*, their *ganglions*, &c. have required longer descriptions. Besides this concise and useful arrangement, there is an *abridged* anatomy and physiology, containing the whole modern knowledge. To render, however, the work more important, it contains a more diffusive description, for the use of lecturers, teachers, or professors, planned and executed in such a manner, that all which is useful in the large volumes of anatomical writers, &c. will here be found, without that prolixity for which many authors and lecturers have been so justly censured, by all who would wish to physician who would wish to account for the various symptoms of diseases, either

facilitate instruction, and render the deepest erudition of the art accessible to all capacities. To all junior students it may be an introduction previous to hearing lectures, and afterward, the companion of the dissecting room; to those who have passed through their studies, it may prove a very concise and useful recapitulator, by the exhibition of those anatomical preparations and facts, from which all actual and demonstrative knowledge was acquired requisite for successful practice.

The practical Application of the Schola Medicinæ.

I. For acquiring anatomical knowledge and physiology.

On viewing the print, with or without anatomical preparations, let the engraving be examined, or compared with the *real* subject, and the written description, connection, and use of the part, be read in the *Schola Medicinæ*: by this procedure, it is impossible not to easily comprehend, in a very short time, the anatomical structure, situation, and use of every part of the human body.*

II. In *physiology*, let the pupil read the description and use of any part or function in the *first column*, and the *scholia*, or reasoning, if any, in the *second column*, by which is readily acquired the *nature, action, power, and utility* of any part, or parts, during *life*.

III. In *pathology*, the knowledge of diseases will be easily ascertained by directing the eye to the *third column* of any part, where will be found the appearances, from *dissections*, after death. Thus blending, in one view, the actual living functions, the reasonings resulting, and the visible defects of all the parts of the human body, *post mortem*, a complete knowledge of the *real* causes of most diseases may be acquired, without having recourse to the imaginary conceits of dubitable hypothesis.

IV. In the rational practice of physic, surgery, and midwifery.

The previous science already described, leads the practitioner to reflect on the positive danger, difficulties, or probable facility of operations, or of curing diseases; by which knowledge a rational cure may be prescribed from the *known efficacy* of remedies, &c. and the resistance to be expected is ascertained in various individual cases. It is impossible for a physician to rationally cure a disease, without comprehending the complicated causes; but by penetrating their origin, from experience in former instances, and by having observed the appearances *after death*, a physician will not only judge of past professional errors, but form an accurate estimate of all future inquiries and improvements, and never be deluded by faith in the plausible deceptions that so often disgrace the art. If hospital pupils take these methods to obtain *real knowledge*, and if they keep a journal under the heads of *name, age, symptoms, disease, remedies, observations*, &c. according to the form I have recommended in the *St. Mary-le-Bone Infirmary*, it is impossible for the studious not to well comprehend the whole *arcana* of the medical art, in the space of two or three years. EXPERIENCE, after this solid foundation, forms the great physician, and he will be the GREATEST, who is convinced, he has, through life, something to LEARN.

* Words and things are easiest taught, and best comprehended, together. The attainment of all languages, arts, and sciences, is quicker acquired by such means, than by the common flow methods of communicating knowledge, which oftener darken than enlighten. Descriptions, however well expressed, cannot convey the ideas of disease so immediately as a view of the sick. At the *St. Mary-le-Bone Infirmary*, I have *classed* diseases in a new manner, in *separate* wards, and on the *door* of each is written, *male, or female, pulmonary fever, chronic, small-pox, surgical, venereal, casual, childrens, convalescent*, &c. &c. The name at the *entrance* gives the *genus* of the disease, and the numerous sick, within each ward, give the individual varieties of *every species*. The prescriptions taken, in the medical department, amount annually to above 20,000: which extensive practice, arranged in the foregoing manner, affords pupils a rapid opportunity of comprehending the *routine* of medical practice, when united with other advantages. Mr. *White*, has displayed an uncommon judgment in the plan of this humane hospital, calculated to answer all the beneficent purposes of the no-

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